

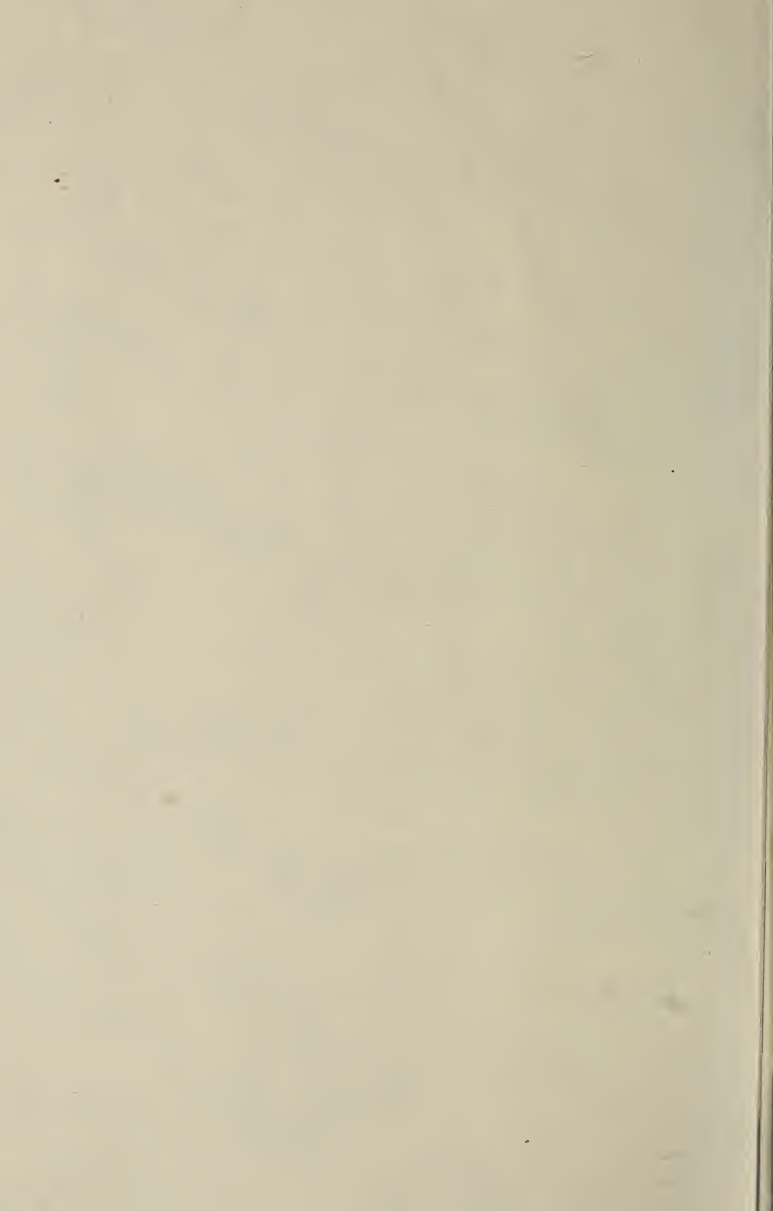


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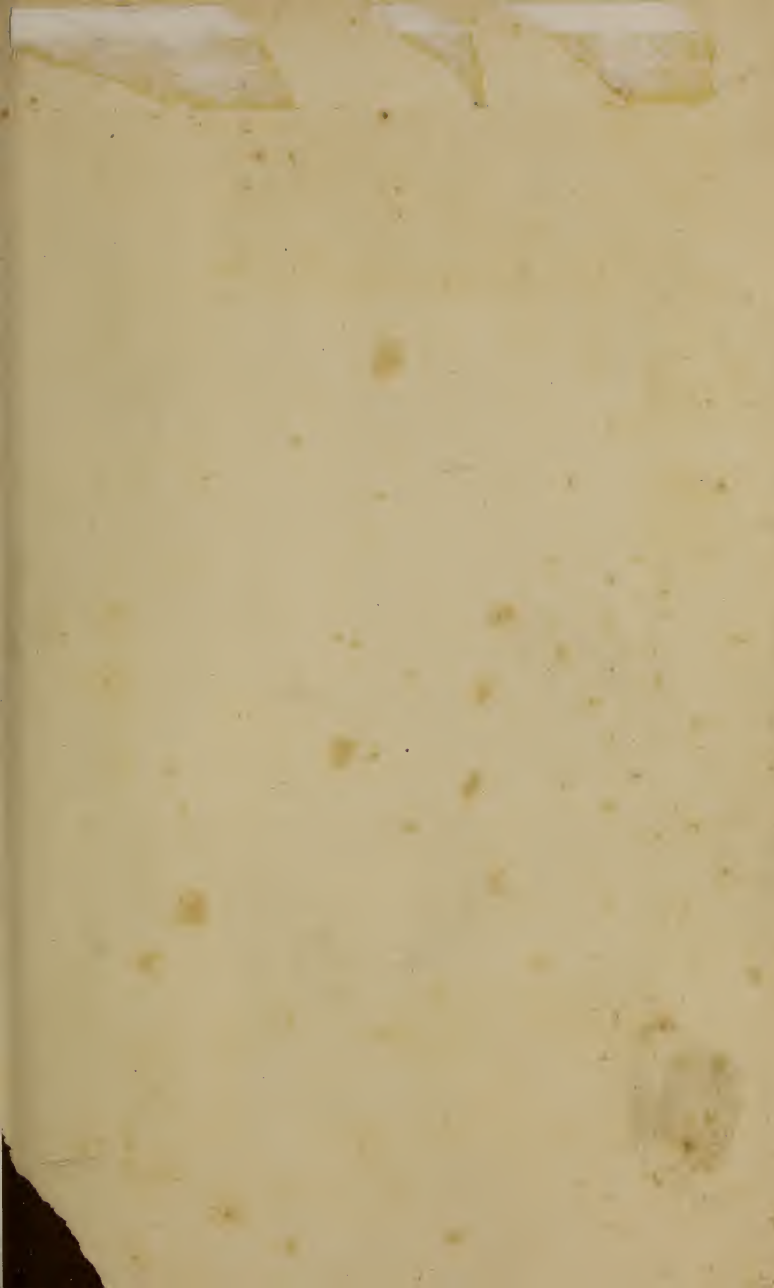


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Gibb & Hay Lithographers to Her Majesty Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN IN 1775.

THE

*History and Antiquities*

OF

NEW AND OLD ABERDEEN.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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WHATEVER tribe of the European *Celtæ* may first have peopled the northern shores of Scotland, we know that the inhabitants of the north-eastern regions have for long been a distinct branch of the Teutonic race, which is evident from the earliest traces of their language we possess ; and the peculiarity of their dialect in substituting *ee* for the double *oo*, with the sound of the French *u*, of the south, and of *f* for *wh*, might be supposed would enable philologists to trace the inhabitants to their original habitations, but such attempts have not yet been attended with any degree of success.

We also meet with a peculiar phraseology and pronunciation among our fishing populations, who invariably drop the aspirate *h*, and use not a few technical terms that are evidently Danish. There is, therefore, reason to infer that those who live on the sea shore and prosecute the fishing have long been, to a certain extent, a distinct class of people from those that occupied the higher and more inland parts of the country.

If the ancient inhabitants of Aberdeen had been descended from a tribe of Caledonians, most naturally they would have located themselves at the mouth of a river such as the Dee or the Don, well sheltered by the forest of the Stocket, where they could either prosecute the fishing, both in the river or in the sea ; and ultimately carry on commercial pursuits : or, if they were afterwards reinforced or superseded by an immigration of people from the opposite continent, as the language and names of the ancient citizens would indicate, they naturally would be directed to such a landing place, where the mouth of a river breaks the line of the coast, and there establish their abode. From whatever source, however, the earliest inhabitants may have been drawn, it is probable that such were the inducements that led to the foundation of Aberdeen, and our reasoning would naturally lead to the conclusion that the original portion of the town would be that which lay nearest to the sea, and that this would be followed by the western and northern portions of the town on the higher ground, as the habitations of the artizan and merchant class, who would gradually arise to supply the wants of their neighbours, and carry on trade and exchange with other places.

In attempting to trace the early History of Aberdeen from the earliest period at which it comes into notice, we must again say that the attempt has not been attended with much success, and we trust that in the

following pages the matter contained will be found to be on the whole pretty correct, considering the meagre and often unsatisfactory record of history and antiquity that exist over a period of between seven and eight hundred years.







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# ABERDEEN:

## ITS ANCIENT HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE CITY.



IN tracing the history of the City of Aberdeen from the earliest period of its history, we must have recourse to the oldest map of the country which is available, viz., that of Ptolemy, an Alexandrian philosopher,

who flourished about the middle of the second century; and represented in this map of the country whatever information he had then obtained; and his work maintained its position till the prosecution of the geographical and maritime discoveries of the fifteenth century exposed its errors.

With regard to Scotland it is peculiarly incorrect, for he has placed the east coast alongside the borders of England, so that the north coast of Scotland points to

the east, and the south of Scotland to the west. It is not, therefore, from such a document that an accurate position of places can be ascertained, but it is not entirely without its use.

In reference to the district of country more immediately under our notice, we find it was inhabited by the *TEXALI*, and bounded on the West (south), by the River *Deva*, with a promontory designated *Taizalum*, and a city called *Devana*, which is also marked as a Roman Station. There is no doubt that this territory comprehends Aberdeenshire, and that the river is the Dee. Some have regarded the promontory as the Buchan-ness, others with more probability, Kinnaird's Head: But where is *Devana*? "Old Aberdeen," says Pinkerton; "New Aberdeen," says Kennedy, "was undoubtedly the spot." On Ptolemy's map we find the mouth of the *Deva* in Lat.  $58^{\circ} 30'$ , and Long.  $26^{\circ} 15'$  (the Latin editions give Lat.  $59^{\circ}$ , and Long.  $26^{\circ} 30'$ ); so that, however we may dispose of these figures, there can be no doubt that Ptolmey's *Devana* was not at the mouth of the *Deva*, and, consequently not on the site of Aberdeen. Mention is also made of this place in a "Roman itinerary of an incursion made by Severus into the northern parts of Scotland, early in the third century," and, in it, Aberdeen is called *Devana*, or the city on the river *Deva*, or *Dee*. The other *Devas* of Ptolemy's, are the *Dee* in Kirkcudbright—called the *Deva* in Selgovii; the *Dee* in Cheshire is called the *Deva* in Cornabii; and the *Diva* in Wales the country of Caristi.

In Gaelic the word *Aber* is synonymous with the prefix *Inver*, and both signify a confluence. *Au* water,

*bar* an obstacle, and *dun* the hill on which the city or castle stands. According to Maclachlan the Gaelic name is *Obairreadhain*, pronounced *Oberrayn*, and signifies the town situated near the mouth of two rivers. And according to Robertson's Gaelic Topography, it may be *Abhir-reidh-an*, the smooth river confluence, or *Abhir-domhain*, the deep confluence.

In Scotland we find the *Abers*, or *Abhir*, chiefly (but not exclusively) on the east coast, and the *Invers* on the west, the country of the Gaelic race. But neither do the *Abers* nor the *Invers* exist on the east coast of England; and both are of doubtful existence in Ireland. On the west coast of England, in Wales, the *Abers* are numerous. In Kennedy's Annals, the name is variously spelt: Aberdeen, Aberdon, Aberdin, Aberdene, and Abrydene; generally in Latin writings it is written Abredonia. But while Buchanan uses the name Abredonia as applicable both to Old and New Aberdeen, he uses Abredeam as applicable only to the latter. On the coins of David II. it is Aberdon.

In attempting to trace the early history of Aberdeen and to fix the period at which the foundation of it, or of any part of it, was erected, we must confess that we have been unable to find Aberdeen the *Devana* of Ptolemy, therefore we must pass over 1000 years before we meet with undoubted evidence of the existence of Aberdeen. According to the late Dr. Joseph Robertson, a man eminent in antiquarian science and research, there occurs the name in the Heimskringla of Snorro, under the year 1153. Eysteinn, a Norwegian, on a piratical expedition, touched first at Orkney. "Thence," says Snorro, "Eys-

teinn, the king, spread his sails to the south, and steering along the eastern shores of Scotland, brought his ships to the town of *Apardion*, where he killed many of the people, and wasted the city. Thus says Einarr Skulason :—

“ ‘ I heard the overthrow of people,  
The clash of broken arms was loud ;  
The king destroyed the peace  
Of the dwellers in Apardion.’ ”

In the *Orkneyinga Saga*, a recent translation of which has been published, we meet with another early notice of Aberdeen, for it is recorded that Swein, Asleif's son, “ went over to Noss (Caithness), and up through Scotland. Here he found Malcolm, king of Scots, who was then only nine winters old, in Apardion. Swein is said to have spent a month there, and was well entertained. After this visit Swein prepared to go away, and the King of Scots and he parted good friends.” As this King of Scots was Malcolm the Maiden, who died in 1165, after a reign of about twelve years, this would place the date of Swein's visit to 1162, about the time when Malcolm dispossessed the inhabitants of Moray, on account of their turbulence and treachery, scattering them over the country, and introduced a new colony in their stead.

It would have been very interesting to have been able to have traced our “braif toun” struggling into existence and prosperity ; but we must pass over 500 years more before we meet with a topographical representation of the city. This is furnished in the plan prefixed to the *Descriptio Novæ et Veteris Aberdoniæ*, drawn by the Rev. James Gordon, of Rothiemay, and presented to the

Magistrates in 1661 ; and in consideration “ that he had been at great pains in draughting ” it “ upon ane miekle cairt of paper,” and that it was “ weill done,” they ordained him to receive “ ane silver piece or cup, wechtand twentie unce, and ane silk hat, with ane silk gown to his bedfellow ”.







## CHAPTER II.

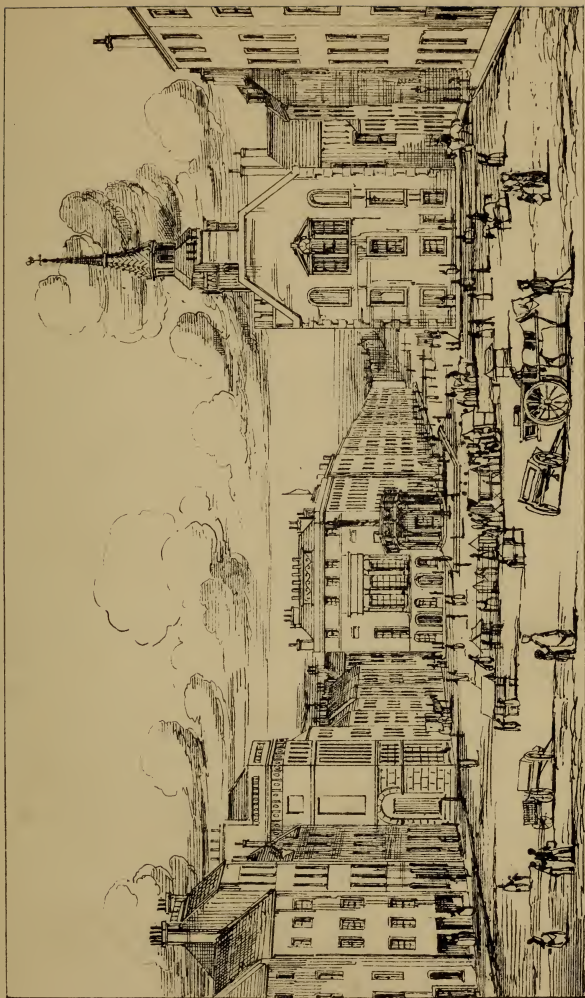
### ANCIENT DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY.



SHORT description of the limited space occupied by the city at that time will perhaps enable the reader who is acquainted with its present appearance to form a clearer idea of the extent of the town, and the great alterations that have taken place, than any other method which could be devised.

On this map the most conspicuous object is St. Catherine's Hill, the base of which is nearly surrounded by the houses constituting principally the *Shiprow* and the *Netherkirkgate*, the hill itself, apparently, being laid out in gardens. The Castlegate is surrounded by houses, having those of the Earl of Marischal and the Laird of Pitfoddels on the south side, and nearly opposite to the Tolbooth, the *Flesh* and *Fish Market Crosses* form conspicuous figures. The Gallowgate extended from the Castlegate to the Porthill, and is built on both sides, with gardens running respectively east and west, the latter terminated by the side of the Loch, and the former at what is now North Street. The lower end of the Gallowgate, however, as early as 1349, was called the





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# CASTLE STREET.



Broadgate ; but before Gordon's plan was constructed, its breadth had been contracted by building a row of houses upon its west side, which produced the narrow street called the *Guestrow*, because, it is said, some of the best houses in the town were on that side of the street, in which distinguished strangers were lodged when they visited the city ; and this reason for the name removes the ambiguity which some have attached to it.

The *Upperkirkgate*, with its port, and the *Schoolhill* can be traced as far as the *Black Freers*. The *Great Church* occupies a very prominent place ; but, with the exception of a few houses, one of which is the Music School, there is scarcely a house to the west of it. The *Key Head* was originally near the *Shore Brae*, and to the eastward is the *Pack House*, beyond which we meet with no houses till we reach *Futty Church*. But the PIER has been extended thus far, and all the land between it and the bottom of the declivity behind the houses on the south side of the Castlegate has been reclaimed from the overflowing of the tide, and converted into corn-land. The land thus reclaimed, from *Marischal Street* or from the *Pack House* to *Commerce Street*, is now overcrowded with a population of about 4000.

The point at which the new Pier originates was called the *Sandness* ; near it stood the *Block House*, and a little farther westwards was the *Fisher's Boat Haven* or *Pockraw*, at a considerable distance east from *Futty Church*.

The *Castlehill* is occupied by a *Chappel* ; but the *Heading-hill* has no houses upon it or around it.

The principal entrance into the town from the south was by the *Windmill Brae* ; and adjacent to the *Bow-*

bridge, which spans the *Den-burn*, there were a few houses on the north side, just before entering the *Green*.

At the east end of the *Green* there is the *Tarnty Mill*, which was in the vicinity of the Trinity Friars' buildings, occupied till recently by the *Trinity Church*.

The *Crab's Stone* apparently occupies its present site on the south side of the *Hardgate* leading to the Bridge of Dee, but it is surrounded by corn fields, which stretch to the edge of the *Corby-heugh*, now Union Terrace.

The *Gallow Hill* displays a gibbet, which indicates the origin of the name. The *Broad Hill* has on the south side of it a considerable space called the *Queen's Links*, the rest of the downs is called the *Futtie Links*. A burn called the *Pow Crick* flows from near the *Heading Hill* and surrounds a piece of ground on the west side of the links, which some may still remember as covered with willows, but which is now occupied by the *Bannermill*, which from its site is frequently called the *Bogmill*.

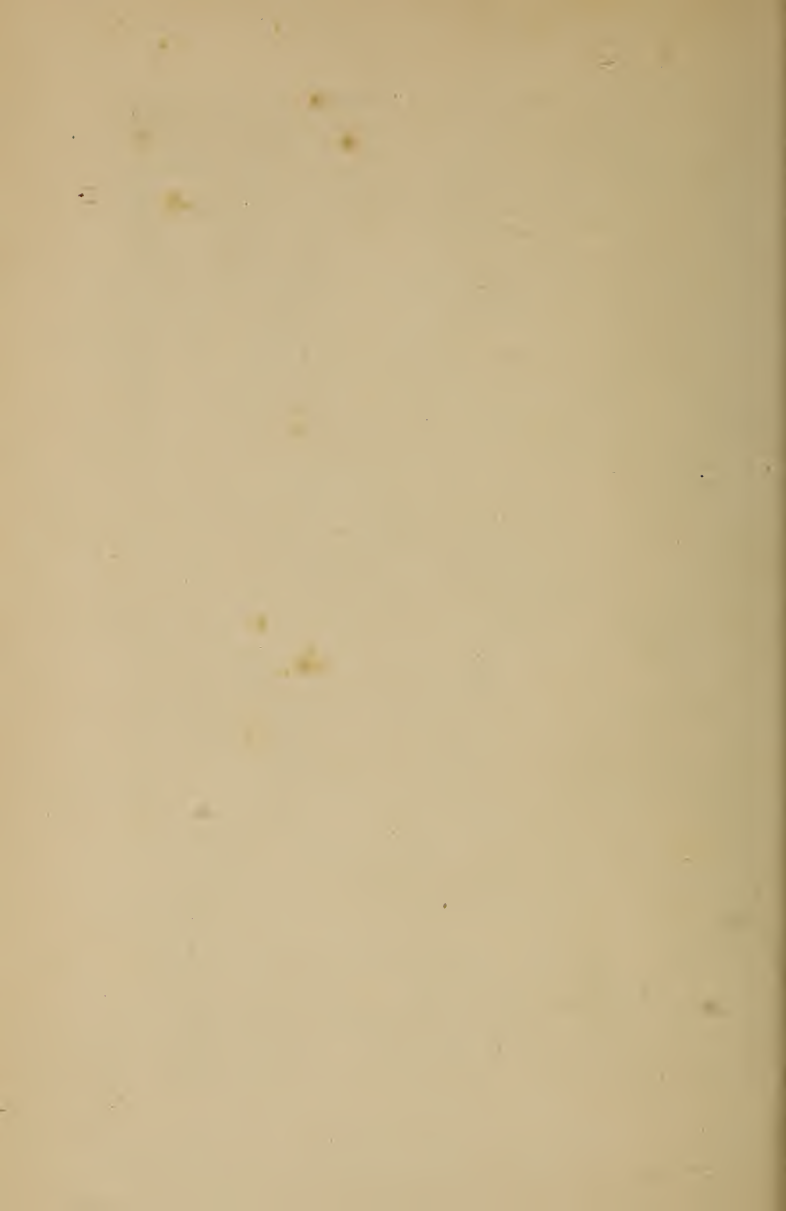
From these notes it will appear that at this early period Futtie, with its own chapel, stood near the sea at the confluence of the Dee, and that the city of Aberdeen consisted principally of the houses occupying the *Castle-gate*, the *Gallowgate*, including the *Broadgate*, with the *Upper* and *Nether Kirkgate*, the *Schoolhill*, the *Shiprow*, and the *Green*.

The next topographical view we have of Aberdeen is the first part of Slezer's *Theatrum Scotiæ*, published in 1693. It is stiff like all his other work of the same kind, but it serves to fill up the gap between Gordon's plan and the more accurate sketch or plan published nearly



Gabb & Hay Lithographers to Her Majesty Aberdeen.

## WINDMILL BRAE.





forty years afterwards. It is said to have been taken from the Block-house; but yet the foreground comprehends the *Bullworke* on the south side of the entrance to the harbour. In the distance towards the left is seen the *Windmill*, apparently in operation as the sails are extended. The spires of the *Great Church* and of the *Tolbooth* form conspicuous features; the church of the *Trinity Friars* with its small steeple is discernable towards the upper part of the harbour; the *Packhouse* can be recognised at the *Quay-head*; the pier has been built as far as *Futtie*, but the land between it and the gardens sloping from the backs of the houses along the south side of the *Castlegate* has not yet been built upon. *Futtie* has not been extended beyond its *chapel*, and the *Blockhouse* occupies its place on the *Sandness*. On the right and in the distance we get a glimpse of *Old Aberdeen* with its College and Cathedral, while in the foreground we have the end of a house with a female lounging at the door, and near it a horse taking a draught of water from the briny ocean. These latter objects, together with several other accessories, are omitted in the "reduced facsimile" of this plate, which is attached to Gordon's *Descriptio*, as published by the Spalding Club. However. It is to that volume that we are indebted for an engraving from a drawing representing the *East Prospect of Aberdeen*, "neatly and evidently faithfully done" by Gregory Sharpe, 1739. Beginning at the left hand we have the *Sandness* with its inevitable *Blockhouse*, then *Footie* with its Church and belfry, and the most prominent building next to it is the Tavern. We then come to the Castle-Hill, laid out in *corn-ground*,

and surmounted by a building displaying a flag and described as the *Castle built by Oliver Cromwell*, and near it is a *Summer House*. Crossing the east end of Castle Street we have a view of the *Tolbooth*, and nearly opposite to it are the houses of the Earl of Marischal and the Earl of Aberdeen. We are next attracted by a view of the spire of the *Great Church*, the smaller spire of the College Church, and then by the back of the College itself, with its gardens lying down to what is now North Street. The next prominent object is the *Port-hill*, covered with *corn-land* and *kitchen gardens*; at the bottom of which we have the *Old Butts* and *Bowling Green*, and one of the most conspicuous erections on its summit are the *Barn where Divine worship was performed*, Provost Fordyce's *Summer House*, and the *Old Windmill*, which is in full sail in Gordon's Prospect, taken from the "corne field a little benorth of the Crabbstone".







### CHAPTER III.

## BAILLIE SKENE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY.



WE shall now add the following quotation from "A Succinct Survey of the famous City of Aberdeen" by Baillie Skene, printed by John Forbes, 1685 :—"Aberdeen is pleasantly seated upon three Hills,

which are all joynted together by easie descents, so as in the middle of the Streets they are scarcely discernable. It is of *Circuit* 2141 double spaces, through which six Gates enter, being built as it presently stands, it is difficult to be fortified in the ordinary way of fortifications, though it hath been diverse times attempted in this our Age since the late Troubles began. In the beginning of the late Troubles it was able to set forth Eight hundred men in good array and Military Furniture to the Fields, well trained for service when called thereto. It being seated between the rivers *Dee* and *Don*, is said by *George Buchanan*, our *Scots Historiographer*, to be *piscata Salmonum nobilis*, that is, Excellent or Famous for Salmond Fishing.

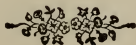
"As for the Accommodations and Ornaments of our

*City*, we have an indifferent good entrie to our *Harbour for ships*, especially since that great Ston called *Craig Metellan* was raised up out of the mouth of the River Dee, and transported out of the current thereof, so that now *Ships* can incurr no damage, which was done by the renowned Art and Industrie of that Ingenious and Vertuous Citizen, *David Anderson*: As also, by that considerable *Bulwark* the *Magistrats* of late years caused erect, at the mouth of the *South side* of the River, extending up the *Shoar* such a great length, so that very great *Ships* may enter and be safely preserved when they are in without hazard." This zealous lover of Bon-Accord, *Philopoliteious*, then proceeds to describe the various public buildings in the city, its government, loyalty, and its commerce, under which last head he says—"Sir Patrick Drummond frequently reported that the *Kingdom* of SCOTLAND was more obliedged to the City of ABERDEEN for the abundance of money the *Merchants* thereof brought to the *Nation* than to all the *Towns* of this *Kingdom* besides"; and he modestly concludes with a reference to the "many eminent men and brave Spirits whom the City had brought forth and bred, and who had in their times been not only Ornaments to the City, but to the whole Kingdom".

Whatever may have been the source from which the inhabitants of Aberdeen may have sprung, and however much the origin of the City may be lost in the haze of antiquity, this we know, that the bravery and ardour of her sons, the acuteness and enterprise of her inhabitants, raised them to the foremost rank amongst the cities of Scotland, as at an early period Aberdeen

had taken her place as an independent Royal Burgh, and had long been a port of extensive foreign trade.

In giving a brief outline of the *History of Aberdeen*, with mere notices of some of those important national events in which some of its brave inhabitants played an important part and often suffered severely, we shall pass by the tradition that Aberdeen was erected into a royal burgh by Gregory the Great, a Scottish King, who had his dwelling at Dunnodeer, and come at once to the period of authentic history and local charters, as the institution of burghs was not probably introduced till about the time of David I. Then we find that Aberdeen was among the first of the king's boroughs that were found entitled to the highest privileges granted at the time. About 1179, King William, by a charter, dated at Perth, granted and confirmed to his burgesses at Aberdeen the privilege of holding their mercantile associations where and when they pleased, as freely as their ancestors had done in the time of his grandfather : And, as an encouragement to the prosecution of commerce, other charters were granted by the same king, exempting the burgesses from certain impositions to which their commodities were liable when exposed in other markets within the kingdom ; but our space forbids further prosecution of this subject. Copies of these charters, with a fac-simile of the earliest, may be seen in Kennedy's *Annals*.





## CHAPTER IV.

### THE VISITS OF ROYALTY IN ANCIENT TIMES.



IN those days kings moved from place to place suppressing insurrections or administering justice ; hence we not only frequently meet with the king at Aberdeen on these occasions, but we also find that William there erected for himself a palace, which was afterwards bestowed on the Monks of the Holy Trinity, and this monastery, which stood near the place occupied by the Trinity Church, was subsequently purchased and presented to the Trades by Dr. Guild. King William also instituted an exchequer with a mint for coining, which gave the name to the lane still known as the Exchequer Row.

King Alexander II., who began his reign in 1214, was also a benefactor to the town, and occasionally passed through it in the course of his circuits. In 1222, Wymtown records that :—

“Oure the Mownth theyne passyd he sene,  
And held hys Yhule in Abbrydene.”

Alexander founded the monastery of Blackfriars, near

the site of Gordon's Hospital, and granted the burgesses the privilege of holding a market weekly on Sunday ! In 1224, the town was accidentally consumed by fire—a calamity that befell several other towns of Scotland in the course of the same year ; and about this time a monastery of Carmelites was founded near the street which still bears the name.

During the reign of Alexander III., a citadel was built on the ground now occupied by the barracks, which had been rendered necessary as a defence against those pirates whose rendezvous seems to have been the Orkney Islands.

In 1271, the common seal of the burgh is first mentioned ; municipal government had then been appointed, and the first Alderman or Provost whose name is upon record was Malcomus Pelgouenie in 1284.

On the death of Alexander III., and on the competition for the Scottish crown, the castle of Aberdeen was delivered to the English king as umpire.

Edward I., in 1296, in his progress through the kingdom, on the 14th day of July, came to Aberdeen, “ a fair castell and a good town vpon the see, and tarayed there v. days ;” or as Wyntown says :—

“ Til Abbrydene than alsa fast  
Fra thine with his host he past,”

having stripped Baliol of his mock sovereignty at Munros, and transported both him and his son as prisoners to London. But the injuries inflicted on the nation by the English monarch roused their indignation, and led them to arm for the resumption of their liberty.

It was about this time that the patriot Wallace came

upon the scene ; having been successful in his enterprises many of his countrymen flocked to his standard, resolved either "to wyn or de". He stormed the castle of Dunnottar and put the garrison to the sword :—

"Sum hung on craggs rycht dulfully to de,  
Sum lap, sum fell, sum floytret in the se."

He then proceeded to Aberdeen, where his exploits are thus described by Blind Harry :—

"Til Abbrydene than haistely thai pass,  
Quhair Inglismen besyly flittand was,  
Ane hundreth schippis, that ruther bur and ayr,  
To trus thair gud, in hawyn was lyand thar ;  
But Wallace ost came on thaim sodeynlye,  
Thair chapyt nane off all that gret menyhe ;  
Bot feill serwands in thaim lewynt nane,  
At an ebb se the Scotts is on thaim gayne,  
Tuk out the ger, syne set ye schippis in fyr,  
The men on land thai bertynyt bayne and lyr ;  
Yeid nane away bot preists, wiffis, and barnys,  
Maid they debait, they chappyt nocht but harmys."

Wallace then passed into Buchan, and found that Lord Bowmond had taken shipping at Slanys for England, and having slain "feill Inglismen at Crummade" he—

"Returnd agayne, and come till Abyrdeyn,  
With hys blyth ost, upon the Lammess ewyn."

When this noble patriot was betrayed, carried to London, beheaded, and barbarously quartered, one of his limbs is said to have been sent to Aberdeen to be exposed over one of the gates of the city.



In 1306, Robert the Bruce, after the battle of Methven, found refuge in Aberdeen for himself and a few faithful followers. The following description is given by Barbour, and affords an excellent specimen of the language of Aberdeen about this period :—

“ Thus in the hyllis levyt he,  
Till the maist pert of hys menye,  
Wer rewyn, and rent, na schoyne thai had,  
Bot as thai thaim off hydys mad,  
Thairfor thai went till Abyrdeyne,  
Quhair *Nele* the *Brwyse* come, and the *Queyn*,  
Aud othyr ladyis fayr and farand  
Ilkane for luff off thair husband ;  
That for leyle luff and loawte  
Wald pertenerys of thair paynys be.  
They chesyt tyttar with thaim to ta  
Angyr, and payn, na be thaim fra.  
For luff is off sa mekill mycht  
That it all paynys maks licht.  
And mony tyme mase tender wycht  
Of swilk strenthtes, and swilk mycht  
That thai may mekill paynys endure,  
That euer may fall, withthy that thai  
Thairthrow may succur thair luffys may.”





## CHAPTER V.

### BON-ACCORD AS THE WATCHWORD OF THE CITIZENS.



AT this part of the history of Aberdeen should occur the event that led to the adoption of *Bon-Accord* as the *cri de guerre* of the citizens, and the motto of their arms. The late Dr. Joseph Robertson investigated the matter, and found no proof of the event with which our local historians have associated the obtaining or in the institution of our "Ensignes-armorial". Barbour affords no evidence in his history of the Bruce that were likely to bear upon the subject—unlikely to escape his notice.

The castle which is said to have been razed to the ground is found to be unmutilated some months afterwards. King Robert, however, conferred important benefits on the town. In 1319, he gave the burgesses and the community the Royal Burgh of Aberdeen and the forest of Stocket, to be held in fee burgage for the annual payment of £213 6s. 8d. Scots. "This is the Great Charter of the City, and the period from which it dates its political institution."



On the death of King Robert Bruce, Edward Baliol invaded Scotland, and kindled a civil war ; and another Edward of England subdued the country. While making a triumphal progress through the country, Thomas Roslyne, a knight in his service, landed at Dunnottar, and, together with one Mowbray, marched towards Aberdeen. The citizens bravely encountered Roslyne at the west end of the Green, near the Den Burn ; but Wyntown has described the conflict and its result so minutely that we shall permit him to repeat his tale :—

“ That tyme of Roslyne Schyre Thomas,  
That throweh all Ingland callyd was  
Ane of the best Knychtis of hand  
That men mycht fynd in any land,  
Til Dwnnotyr come be se  
Qwhare Williame Mowbray met and he,  
Wyth all the men, that than had thai,  
Til Abbrydene held straweht thaire way,  
That til have fwndyn woyd of men,  
Bot they fand it noucht swa’ then ;  
For welle nere be the Grennys end  
They mete that tyme ma’ than thai wend.  
Qwhen thai nere ware thaire metyng,  
Thare at a lytyel Bwrne passyng  
Sehyr Thomas hwrt wes in the Kne,  
And sone of that hurt deyde he.  
Thai cryide than, ‘ Roslyne,’ bot he can say,  
‘ Roslyne is went, yhe tak Mowbray.’  
So fell, as they assemblyd thare,  
The Scottis men down thaim flatlyngis bare :  
And on thaim folowyd syne the Chais  
On Folk be-hynd, that fleand was,

As that owr-tuk thaim, bare all down,  
And of the Folk made in the Town  
Great Slawchtyr, so that thai bathe ware  
Wencust ; bot Scottis the war had thare  
Owttane the slawchtyr of Roslyne.  
His Cors wyth thame tursyd thai syne,  
And went to Dunnotyre thare way,  
Some of thare men thare levyd thai."

The King, having been eluded by Sir Andrew Murray, came to Aberdeen, and for the reason stated by Wyntown completely burned it down :—

"Til Abbyrdene syne are thai gane  
And into wengeawns of Roslyne  
The Town up halily brynt thai syne."

And when the city was rebuilt it is said to have received the name of *New Aberdeen*.

The year 1411 brings us to the year in which the great battle of Harlaw was fought, and in which the Provost, Sir Robert Davidson, and many of the burgesses of the city performed so important a part that they are still held in honour by their descendants. Sir Robert fell upon the battle field, and his body was interred near the great arch of the steeple of St. Nicholas Church. Fully three centuries afterwards the remains of his body was discovered, with a crimson cap on the skull. The standard under which they fought was unhappily lost in the encounter with Montrose in 1644, the staff, however, is still preserved ; but doubts are entertained with respect to the armour which is said to have been worn by the Provost in the battle.

About sixty years afterwards a monastery of Grey

Friars was founded on the site now occupied by Marischal College.

About the beginning of the sixteenth century the visits of the Sovereign or his Consort constituted important events in the history of the City. We specially allude to the visit of Margaret, Queen of James IV., in May, 1511, because, while it equalled other ceremonies of a similar kind, it was celebrated by Dunbar, an eminent poet of the period, whose minute description of the ceremonies warrants the inference that he had been in Her Majesty's train. After the poet had pronounced Aberdeen to be "beryl of all towns," and the "lamp of beauty," he gives a description of the various parties forming the procession, from which we select the following :—

"Syne came there four-and-twenty maidens ying,  
All clad in green, of marvellous beutie,  
With hair detressit, as threads of gold did hing,  
With white hats, all broiderit richt bravelie.  
Playing on timb'rels and singing richt sweetlie ;  
That seemly sort, in order well beseen,  
Did meet the Queen, her saluand reverentlie ;  
Be blithe and blissful, burgh of Aberdeen."

The fore-stairs were adorned with tapestry ; the lieges louted, the commons shouted, the "Cross abundatlie ran wine," and Her Majesty was presented with

"Ane costly cup that large thing wuld contene,  
Coverit and full of cunyeit gold richt fine,"

which, we learn from another source, amounted to £200.

In 1525, Seton of Meldrum, Leslie of Wardhouse, and

Leslie of Balquhain entered the city under cloud of night, at the head of eighty spearmen, and commenced an attack on the citizens, who flew to arms and gave them battle. Although victory declared for the town, yet eighty of the inhabitants were either killed or seriously wounded. This event led to the adoption of various plans as a means for the protection of the city against similar attacks.

The Council had about this time been accustomed to present a tun of wine to Lord Forbes for protecting the salmon fishings of the Dee and the Don; but the citizens, discovering that the watches required to be watched, resolved to stop the supply of wine. On Sunday, the 30th July, 1530, the Forbeses invaded the city, but the citizens drove the invaders into the Gray Friar's place, kept them there for twenty-four hours and then dismissed them, but retained their horses.





## CHAPTER VI.

### THE BLOCK-HOUSE AND THE HARBOUR.



THE Block-house, which has already been noticed, was appointed to be built for the defence of the harbour as early as 1477, and the appointment was renewed in 1513, when the Council determined that its length should be thirty-six feet and its breadth half as much, with walls six feet thick and as high as masons should determine. "This rough piece of work was finished Anno 1542," says Gordon, and was "builded for garding the entrie to the harbourie from pirats and alagards, and cannons were planted there for that purpose." Ten years after the Block-house was built, on a rumour of war being spread, a chain was cast across the water for the greater safety of the haven. But as regards the Block-house, which was built about the beginning of the sixteenth century on the foundation of the old one, the ground plan was semi-circular or half-moon shape, the embrasures pointing seawards, and an arched roof which had been considered shell-proof. Nothing of this structure now remains, and a row of new buildings with a stone bearing the following inscription, built into the

front of one of them, runs as follows:—1477. A fort stood here. 1532. The Block-house. 1878. This building erected.

In 1537, James V. and his Court paid a visit to Aberdeen, and great exertions were made to entertain His Majesty during his stay of fifteen days. But during these days of rejoicing an attempt was made on the life of the King by the Master of Forbes, “be schott of culwering,” for which he was sentenced to be “harlyt and drawin throw the cassay of Edinburgh, and hangit on the gallows to the deid”; but through the mediation of friends he was favoured by being only beheaded and quartered.

We are now brought to the time of the Reformation. The doctrines of Luther found an advocate in Aberdeen in John Marshall, master of the Grammar School, so early as 1521, but a persecution of two years led him to recant. Thomas Branche and Thomas Cussing were imprisoned in 1544, on the accusation of having *hanged* the image of St. Francis; but it was not till the 29th December, 1569, that a body of reformers from Angus and Mearns made an assault on the monuments of idolatry in the city; the reformed religion prevailed, and the monks either went abroad or were received into the families of some of the principal citizens. The first Protestant minister was Adam Heriot, who died on the 28th of August, 1574, and was gratefully commemorated in three poems by Johnston, author of *Heroes*, who in his boyhood had been instructed by him, and in his maturer years



“Spread voilets and lillies on his grave  
And verses to his pious ashes gave.”

He was succeeded by John Craig, a man who occupied a prominent position in the ecclesiastical history of the period. He lost his father at the battle of Flodden, became a monk of the Dominican Order, and having been appointed to the rectorate of Bologna, he began to read the *Institutes* of Calvin and embraced the Protestant doctrines. As he made no secret of the change of sentiments, he was thrown into the prison at Rome and condemned to the flames, from which he was saved by an insurrection of the people on the death of Pope Paul IV. Having reached his native country in 1560, he acted for nine years as colleague of John Knox. Having preached two years at Montrose, by appointment of the General Assembly, he was sent to Aberdeen in 1573 “to illuminate those dark places in Mar, Buchan, and Aberdeen, and to teach the youth in the college there”; but in 1579 he returned to Edinburgh on his being appointed minister to King James VI. He was compiler of part of the Second Book of Discipline, and was the writer of the National Covenant, which was signed by the King and other church dignataries in 1580, destined to exercise so great an influence on the country. He died in 1600, aged eighty-eight years.

In 1556, the Queen Dowager, now Regent, revisited the town, and received liberal presents of wine, wax, and spiceries, together with 320 merks, in order to win her favour, and soon after her arrival in Scotland Queen Mary, in her progress through the northern parts of her dominions, visited Aberdeen. She was received with



every demonstration of joy by the citizens, but the memory of her visit was darkened by sad events. The Earl of Huntly having taken arms was encountered by the Earl of Murray at Corrichie, on the 28th October, 1562, and defeated. In the flight he met his death, and his body was conveyed to Edinburgh that sentence of forfeiture might be pronounced over it. On the second day after the conflict five gentlemen of the name of Gordon were hanged in the city, and on the 2nd of November Huntly's second son, John Gordon, was beheaded in the involuntary presence of the Queen, who "upon the feird day of November came out of Aberdeine to Dunnottar".

"In the way which goes from Aberdeen towards the Bridge of Dee," says Gordon, "there is ane inconsiderable stone standing up by the way syde called the Crabestone"; and there a skirmish took place, 20th November, 1571, between the families of Huntly and Drumminner, in which the Forbeses were defeated.





## CHAPTER VII.

### JAMES VI. AND WITCHES.



JAMES VI. frequently visited the town, and was received with every demonstration of loyalty. In 1594, His Majesty found it necessary to advance his troops to the town, in order to reduce the Popish Earls to submission; and in 1597 two of the rebel lords were received into the King's favour by an impressive ceremony conducted partly in the church and partly at the cross. This took place in 1597, when the Earl's pacification was proclaimed by sound of trumpet.

About this time the crime of witchcraft appears to have been very prevalent; but the means of ascertaining the guilt of the accused, and the sentences inflicted on the miserable victims of gross superstition were alike discreditable to the government and judges of the period. The city of Aberdeen had its full share in these cruel transactions, for we find that in the years 1596-7, twenty-two women and one man were condemned to the flames and suffered on the Castle-hill. The expenses in stakes, ropes, tar-barrels, peats, &c., being all duly entered in the accounts of the Dean of Guild; and when the most intelligent of our city and of the time could receive such

accusations, and pass such sentences, we need not wonder that people could behold such executions without sympathy, and regard such punishments as merited for an imaginary crime.

But the civil commotions of the nation called the attention of the inhabitants of the city to more important matters than the burning of women, whose greatest fault was that of "poverty and eild". The extent to which Aberdeen suffered during the great civil wars renders it impossible to give even a brief and satisfactory account, for, as an eye-witness of those ravages has said, "there wes no citie in Scotland which did suffer more hurt then Aberdeen did, nor oftener." We have to pass over the lamentable events which happened during the reign of Queen Mary, the labours of John Knox, the mercenary regency of Morton, and the expensive visits of King James VI., between 1580 and 1617, before we can reach the cause of those severe calamities in which the inhabitants of the city were involved.

No sooner was Great Britain united under one king, in 1603, than he sought to unite the two kingdoms under the same constitution. Having failed in this attempt, he was then desirous of bringing the Church of Scotland into conformity with the Church of England; but the suspicions of the ministers of the Scotch Church had long been awake to this design, and, therefore, what some considered the measures of a moderate prelacy were generally regarded as the forerunners of popery, and strenuously resisted.

Charles I., on the demise of his father, succeeded him on the throne, and came to Scotland to be crowned in

1633. But an attempt to introduce into the Church of Scotland a liturgy similar to that of the Church of England, in 1637, rekindled the fire that had been but smouldering throughout the country. Charles, however, was obstinate, and Scotchmen were equally determined. High and low united in a National Covenant, in order to eradicate prelacy, to restore presbytery in its purity, and to assert the liberty of conscience in all things spiritual.

The covenanting party held a General Assembly at Glasgow in 1638, abolished episcopacy, and took arms to maintain their rights, while the king was preparing a powerful army for the invasion of Scotland. For the history of the negotiations, procrastinations, disbanding and reassembling of troops that took place, we must refer to general history, and now advert to the effects these commotions produced in Aberdeen.

The Covenanters believed that not only their religious but also their civil liberties were imperilled, considered it of the greatest importance that the Covenant should be subscribed by the whole kingdom. But under the influence of the Marquis of Huntly and the episcopal ministers, well known as the "Aberdeen doctors," the town refused to sign the Covenant, which had been sent them in April, 1638, by a commission from the Tables; and in July another commission, comprising the Rev. Messrs Henderson, Dixon, and Cant, came to Aberdeen, but refused the "cup of Bon-Accord" offered them by the magistrates till they should ascertain what *concord* was between them on the Covenant. "The like," exclaims the indignant Spalding, "was never done to

Aberdeen in no man's memory!" On the Lord's Day, as the pulpits were refused them, the clerical commissioners repaired to Earl Marischal's Close, where Henderson, Dixon, and Cant preached successively, and, after sermon, replied to certain propositions which had been submitted to them by the Doctors. These Propositions, with Replies and Duplies, were subsequently printed; and the zealous Doctors, with those who adhered to them, obtained the "hartie thanks of Charles for their good affection to his service".

The clerical commissioners, however, obtained about 500 signatures, including the names of some of the principal inhabitants; and the extent to which the views of the Covenanters prevailed is proved by the unanimous call that was given in the subsequent year to Henderson by the Provost, Baillies, and Council, to accept the "chairge of ministrie," on the death of one of the Doctors.





## CHAPTER VIII.

### CIVIL WAR AND THE DEFENCE OF THE CITY.



IN 1639, and with the prospect of a civil war the citizens began to fortify the town by cutting ditches from the Gallowgate Port to the Castle-hill, and planting eleven pieces of ordnance in the streets, and forming themselves into troops. The Marquis of Huntly, as lieutenant of the north, called upon all of proper age to join his standard. During this time Montrose appeared at the head of an army of Covenanters. Propositions for an armistice having been rejected, Montrose entered the town with about 9000 troops, as Spalding says, "in seimly order and good array". They entered "the burgh about ten hours in the morning, at the Outer Kirk-gate Port, syne came down throw the Broad-gate, throw the Castle-gate, out at the Justice Port, and to the Queen's Links directly".

After breakfast the fortifications were destroyed, the Earl of Kinghorn was appointed governor of the burgh, with 1500 troops. Montrose, who had been joined by the Aberdeenshire barons with 2000 troops, marched to



Kintore. On the following Wednesday the inhabitants, having met in the Grey Friars Church, were invited to sign the Covenant, but they begged for time to consider the matter. Montrose had returned to Aberdeen, when the citizens were again requested to sign the Covenant, to contribute 100,000 merks, and to defray the expense of the army since its arrival in the city. The inhabitants professed their willingness to contribute proportionally with other burghs, but declared their inability to pay the tax, and begged, if insisted on, a sufficient time would be allowed them to remove from the town. A fast was observed, the Covenant was read to the assembled citizens, and signed by a great majority of them ; but Spalding was of opinion that they were "brought under perjurie for plain feare". Montrose, after having made the Marquis of Huntly prisoner, marched southward, and this aroused the Gordons. The Earl Marischal collected an army of about 3000 in Aberdeen, of which he constituted himself governor, and although this body of men was dispersed, another gathering was appointed to meet at Turriff in May ; but the Gordons, having taken arms, surprised and routed them, and after this "Trot o' Turra," as it was called, the cavaliers marched to Aberdeen, and for five days remained masters of it. When the Gordons left the town, the Earl Marischal marched into it, and this royalist insurrection brought Montrose back again to the city. The citizens were subjected to another tax of 10,000 merks, and also deprived of their army. Montrose having found it necessary to march northward to plunder the lands of the insurgents, received intelligence that Viscount Aboyne



had arrived in the harbour of Aberdeen with three ships stored with ammunition, passed through Aberdeen and proceeded to Angus.

The Viscount, having been joined by his brother, Lord Lewis, marched southwards, and was encountered on Megray-hill, near Stonehaven, by Montrose and Earl Marischal, when a few cannon shots put the Highlanders to flight, and so they returned to Aberdeen in great confusion. The victors followed and encamped on the Tollo-hill, while Aboyne took possession of the Bridge of Dee.

On the second day of the contest Montrose made a feint to cross the Dee a little higher up, which, however, its swollen state rendered impracticable : Aboyne drew off part of his horse in order to obstruct the enemy. As Pitmedden and he were riding together, the whole of the body of the former was carried away above the saddle by a heavy cannon ball. The defenders were further weakened by fifty of their number imprudently joining the funeral of one of the citizens who had fallen the previous day. At last Johnstone, one of the leaders, was wounded, and the defence abandoned. The Covenanters entered the city in triumph ; forty-eight of those who had so valiantly defended the bridge were cast into prison, and it was urged that a place that had given the Covenanters so much trouble should be pillaged and devoted to the flames ; but Montrose demurred to execute such a terrible measure, and next day the city was abandoned on the payment of 6000 merks.

By these various distresses, a debt of nearly £20,000

had been incurred, and appeals for relief could only be answered by King Charles with his sympathy.

Some of these incidents are alluded to in the contemporary ballad of John Seton of Pitmedden :—

“ Upon the eighteenth day of June,  
A dreary day to see,  
The Southern lords did pitch their camp  
Just at the Bridge of Dee.

“ Some rode upon the black and gray,  
And some upon the brown,  
But bonny Johnny Seton o’ Pitmedden  
Lay gasping on the ground.

\* \* \* \*

“ Up then rides him Craigievar,  
Says, ‘ Wha’s this lying here ?  
It surely is the Lord Aboyne,  
For Huntly was no here.’

“ Then out it spake a fause Forbes,  
Was riding frae Drumniner,—  
‘ This is the proudest Seton of a’,  
The rest will ride the thinner.’

\* \* \* \*

“ Then they rade on, and further on,  
Till they came to the Craibstane ;  
And wha sae ready as Craigievar  
To burn a’ Aberdeen.

\* \* \* \*

“ Then out and spoke the gallant Montrose,  
As he rode ower the field,—  
‘ Why should we burn the bonny bruch,  
When its like we couldna build ?

“ ‘ I see the women and the children  
Climbing the craigs sae hie ;  
We'll sleep this night in the bonny bruch,  
And even let it be.’ ”





## CHAPTER IX.

### THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL OF THE RIVER DEE.



UT here we must revert back to the beginning of the seventeenth century, at which time the improvements of the navigation channel of the river Dee may be said to have been commenced.

Between the years 1608 and 1618, David Anderson, of Finzeach, a citizen and merchant burgess, succeeded in removing a large piece of rock which lay in the middle of the navigation channel, and the removal of which is thus described in Robertson's book of Bon-Accord :—" The entry to the harbour was long obstructed by a great stone, called Knock Maitland, or Craig Metellan. But, in 1610, this obstacle was removed—by the renowned art and industrie of that ingenious and vertuous citizen, David Anderson, of Finzeach, from his skill in mechanics popularly known by the name of 'Davie-do-a'-thing'. The expense of the implements employed by him amounted to 300 merks. Tradition relates that the device he adopted was that of securing a number of empty casks to the *block* at low

water, and when the flowing tide lifted the mass from its bed, he seated himself on one of the barrels, and, with colours flying (and pipes playing), sailed up the harbour, amidst the acclamations of the delighted citizens."

The river and the harbour mouth still remained very much interrupted by drifting sand, and by the contending flood water in the Dee, that often at low tide there was only *two* feet of water on the *Bar*, and at high water not more than thirteen feet. In Spalding's History, 1624-1645, we find that in the year 1637—"Upon St. Stephen's day, the 26th December (through great inundation of water), a bar or great bed of sand was wrought up and carried overthwart the mouth of the river Dee, mixed with marle-clay and stones. This fearful bar so stopped the harbour mouth, that no ship could go out or come in thereat; and, at low water, a man might have passed on the bed dry-footed from the north shore to the bulwark. It amazed the hail people of Aberdeen, burgh and land; they fell to fasting, praying, mourning, weeping all day and night; then they went out with spades and shovels in great numbers, young and old, to cast down this fearful bar, but all in vain; for as fast as they threw down at low water, it gathered again at full sea. Then the people gave it over, and became heartless, thinking our sea trade and salmon fishing was likely to be gone, and noble Aberdeen brought to destruction, and hastily advertised the hail coast-side, south and north, with this accident, that none of their vessels should approach this harbour. But while they are at the pain of despair, the Lord of His great mercy removed clean away this bar, and the water did keep its

own course as before, to the great joy of the people of Aberdeen, and comfort of the people round about. But this bar came not for nought, but was a token of great troubles to fall upon both Aberdeens; and it is to be remarked, that as there was fearful signs by water, so there was many monstrous high winds this year, no good token more than the rest."

In 1661, Gordon in his survey of Aberdeen says, "Men of warre and merchande ships of great size and burthen must ly at Torrie in the verie channel of the Dee. Lesser vessels may go up to Futtie, or by the help of the tyde at high water goe up to the Citie, and ly close along the peer, wher they either unloade the goods and take in their fraughts"; and, at p. 214, the same author says—"Nor dare any venture bot expert pillots who can guyde the way, and have the help of the wind and tyde."

By the extension of the pier eastward from the Weigh-house, which was effected about the year 1658, Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran, in 1715 says, "that about sixty years ago, a fine meadow of ground was gained, by making a long broad terras flanked in both sides with large stones; and the harbour nothing entrenched upon but bettered". "This extension measured no fewer than 500 walking passes, and joyned with Futtie. The territory thus gained from the estuary was called the Shore lands, and thereon are built Virginia Street, James's Street, Commerce Street, and all the lanes and houses which lie between the Regent Quay, and the foot of the Castle Hill."\*

\* Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.



The next attempt to improve the navigation channel of the Dee was made in 1755, by carrying out Smeaton's plans of the North Pier, which was finished in 1780. Smeaton recommended that this pier should be carried 1,400 feet seawards from the Sandness ; but only 1,200 feet was built, which, along with Abercrombie's Jetty, built in 1789, cost about £18,000. By the erection of this pier, the channel or mouth of the river was narrowed, and a greater scour created ; the Bar was carried much further seaward, and the depth of water on it increased from 13 to 18 feet at high tides.

Inconvenience still being felt from the want of greater depth of water on the Bar, in 1810, Mr. Telford was consulted, who at once recommended a further extension of Smeaton's North Pier ; and the erection of a breakwater pier on the south side of the entrance channel. Soon after, these works on Telford's plans were commenced, and in 1816, the North Pier had been extended 900 feet from Smeaton's pier-head, and about 600 feet of the south breakwater had been built. This extension of the North Pier, which had its beneficial effects, cost about £66,000 ; and the south breakwater had also its beneficial effects, and cost "more than £14,000". By the execution of these works, and of some smaller jetties inside the entrance, an additional depth of water was gained to the extent of three feet on the Bar ; and for upwards of fifty years, the depth of water on the Bar has remained stationary at about 21 feet of ordinary spring tides.

Up to the year 1829, harbour improvements were chiefly confined to the building and rebuilding of inner



Quay walls, but the disastrous flood in the Dee in the month of August of that year, underfounded and carried away considerable portions of the Quay walls, the Commissioners resolved on making a new Channel for the river and a spillwater (?) to the south of the harbour, whereby a large area of ground was added to the Inches, now called the Inches, and an access made to them by a swing bridge thrown across the harbour from Regent Quay at the bottom of Marischal Street. "This draw or swing bridge, was erected in 1832, and cost about £6,000; and it leads directly to the banks of the Dee, and to a fragment of a gigantic oak which was found imbedded in the river near to where it now stands." \*

In 1838, the Commissioners consulted Mr. James Walker, C.E., of London, as to improvements which might be effected on the interior parts of the harbour. Mr. Walker recommended that the upper part of it should be converted into a wet dock, on much the same plan as that recommended by Telford in 1810. On this report the Commissioners prepared a bill and introduced it into Parliament in Session 1839, but owing to the opposition it met with from merchants, manufacturers, and shipowners, it was thrown out on the ground chiefly that the area proposed to be occupied for dock purposes would greatly curtail the extent of tidal harbour, and add seriously to the already too heavily burdened funds of the trust, without giving any increased, or anything like adequate accommodation for the outlay. It being shown that nearly £130,000 had been expended on im-

\* Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.

proving the interior of the harbour during the past thirty years.

In 1840, the harbour Commissioners again applied to Parliament, and were successful in obtaining their bill, and soon after they commenced building one dock and one tide lock, the former being 350 feet by 60, and the latter 80 feet in width, with a swing bridge on each for carriages. These locks or gates were finished and the Dock opened in September, 1848. At the same time Provost Blaikie's Quay wall was finished, and the Cross Quay wall was carried in a direct line with the east side of Market Street, 440 feet southwards from Trinity Quay, thereby cutting off a considerable extent of tidal ground which is now chiefly occupied by the Caledonian Railway Company as part of their goods station.

The area of the Victoria Dock is 28 acres,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres of which are above the Marischal Street swing bridge. The extent of tidal harbour is about 18 acres, exclusive of the old channel of the Dee, from Point Law up to the line of Market Street, which is at present being lined on both sides by wharves and rubble walls for herring boats, and the formation of a dry dock for large vessels on the north side of it, and the street along the north side is now called the Commercial Road.





## CHAPTER X.

### EARL MARISCHAL AND THE MONIES OF THE CITIZENS.



IN the beginning of 1640, and soon after the skirmish at the Bridge of Dee, Earl Marischal exacted on loan all the gold and silver work and coined money belonging to the citizens, and afterwards enforced a muster of all those capable of bearing arms. The Marischal and General Munro at the head of their forces entered the town; and for a period of three months, the citizens were subjected to grievous oppression; many of the burgesses were despatched to join Lesley's army, and many fled the City and concealed themselves "about the craigs of Downy". Munro at length left the City in charge of the Master of Forbes, but it was soon occupied by 500 soldiers under Lord Sinclair. Their conduct led Spalding to exclaim—"O wo'ful Abirdene! by thy sins this heavie scourge is laid upone thee bye all the burrowes in Scotland, muche to be bemoned and lamented!"

After these lamentable scenes had passed over, Aber-

deen enjoyed a period of comparative repose, but in 1644 an apprehended rising of the Gordons led the citizens to watch the city and to train a Burgher Guard. These preparations, however, proved of little avail, for Sir George Gordon of Haddo, the Lairds of Gight, Drum, and others, at the head of a small troop of horse, entered the city at the head of the Gallowgate Port, and carried off Provost Jaffray, the Dean of Guild, and two of the principal burgesses. Soon after this the Marquis of Huntly took possession of the burgh with 300 horse and as many foot, and began to plunder the houses of the covenanting gentry in the neighbourhood. The citizens were deprived of their arms, compelled to raise sums of money, and to grant his troops free quarters. At the approach of the enemy Huntly retired to his fortress of Auchindown, and liberated those citizens that had been carried off by Haddo.

The forces of the Covenanters, under Lords Burleigh and Elcho, entered the town to the joy of their friends and the terror of the royalists, and soon after an accession was made to those troops by the arrival of the Marquis of Argyle, but the main division of this body had marched northwards.

In 1641, King Charles visited his native country, and distributed titles even among those who had lately invaded England; but on most of them these produced little effect, with the exception of the Earl of Montrose whom he gained to his cause. The Solemn League and Covenant was sworn to both in Scotland and England, and the Scots sent auxiliaries to the Parliament forces, who contributed greatly to the decisive victory of

Marston Moor. But at the same time Montrose, now raised to the dignity of Marquis, by his rapid movements at the head of a body of Irishmen and Highlanders, was likely to reduce Scotland to the power of the King.

Twice have we seen him enter Aberdeen in the cause of the Covenant, but we have to represent him now as entering it the third time to chastise those whom he had formerly induced to sign that bond! Having forded the Dee at the Mills of Drum, he encamped at the Twa Mile Cross. Troops were collected in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, and united with those in the city. The armies met near the Justice Mills, and maintained the fight for two hours, but at last the Covenanters gave way before a general assault of the enemy, and a dreadful carnage took place as they fled into the town. "Horribill wes the slaughter in the flight," says the royalist chronicler, "the Lieutenant's men hewing and cutting all manner of men they could overtak with brode suordis, without mercy or remead. Their cruel Irishes, seeing a man well cleid, would first tyr him, to saif his clothes unspoiled, syne kill the man." For two days the depredations of Montrose's troops were continued, and Spalding gives a lamentable account of the distress produced by their rapacity.

After Montrose had retired to Kintore, Argyle next entered the city with an army which was soon increased to about 6000 men, and then went in pursuit of his foe. Our space forbids our tracing the rapid movements of Montrose by which he baffled his pursuer. In the beginning of 1645 we find him in the neighbourhood of Turriff, and the Magistrates representing that, should he

approach the town, it would be forsaken "through plain fear of the Irishes". He placed a party of eightscore of horsemen in it, who were surprised by a troop of the enemy's cavalry, who killed a few and carried off several prisoners; but this disaster entailed on the citizens a loss equivalent to about ten thousand pounds. Montrose was at length defeated at Philliphaugh on the anniversary of his victory at Aberdeen.

While Montrose was endeavouring to raise another army in the Highlands, the Marquis of Huntly collected his followers in 1645, and made himself master of Moray.

In the beginning of the next year a body of soldiers wintered in Aberdeen to watch the movements of these royalists. After various skirmishes Huntly assailed the city, routed Montgomery's cavalry, and soon after obliged the foot to surrender. But Charles, having cast himself upon the Scottish army at Newark, ordered Huntly to lay down his arms in the very hour of his triumph, and the tidings were received with the greatest joy, which was manifested by bonfires, the ringing of bells, and a banquet at the cross. Sufficient security having been given by both Houses of Parliament concerning the safety and preservation of His Majesty's person, the Scottish army left him with his English subjects, who beheaded him on 30th January, 1649.

The city of Aberdeen was so far concerned in the negotiations that were begun for placing the son of the late monarch on the throne that Provost Jaffray, member of Parliament for the city, was one of the Commissioners sent to Holland to bring home the young King. In reference to the signing of the Covenant by the Prince,



Jaffray says in his diary, "he sinfully complied with what we most sinfully pressed upon him—where I must confess to my apprehension our sin was more than his". While the Scottish Commissioners were recommending the signing of the Covenant, Montrose was urging him to reject it, and trust to the sword for the recovery of his throne. Charles granted a commission to the Marquis to make a descent upon Scotland, while he protracted negotiations with the Presbyterians. Montrose having landed in Orkney, next disembarked on the mainland, and was completely routed on the confines of Sutherlandshire. Having escaped from the field of battle, he was discovered lurking in Ross-shire, and delivered into the hands of David Leslie, who conveyed him to Edinburgh, where he was executed and dismembered on the 21st May, 1650.

Charles having landed at Speymouth, entered Aberdeen on the 7th July, 1650, and was lodged in a merchant's house opposite the Tolbooth, on which had been fixed one of the hands of Montrose. He was entertained at great expense, but left next day for Dunnottar.

As the unsuccessful attempts of Charles to regain the throne of his father is not particularly connected with Aberdeen, we have next to observe that an army under the Commonwealth and under General Monk entered Aberdeen on Sunday, 7th September, 1651. These English troops remained in the town for many years. They erected a fortification on the Castle-hill, with materials taken from the ruins of the Bishop's Palace in Old Aberdeen, and seem to have lived on good terms with the inhabitants.



During the Protectorate Scotland enjoyed a few years of comparative tranquillity ; religious persecution was diminished, justice impartially administered, and commerce encouraged. But on the death of Cromwell, Charles was restored to the throne, and entered London amid the enthusiastic acclamations of the populace on the 29th May, 1660. The restoration was nowhere hailed with greater joy than in Aberdeen ; the royal arms were replaced on the cross ; thanksgiving sermons were preached ; bonfires blazed in the streets ; poems were composed ; psalms sung ; fire-arms discharged ; and “ the glasses in which the King’s health was pledged were thrown and broken ” ! The Synod of Aberdeen met in King’s College, and acknowledged the sins of which the land had been guilty in opposing the will of His Majesty “ of precious memory,” as well as of their “ gracious King,” and thus, as it was represented at Court, they had as good as petitioned for the restoration of Episcopacy.





## CHAPTER XI.

### EARL OF MAR'S DOINGS AND THE DEATH OF CHARLES II.



FOR about fifty years after the Restoration, few local events occurred of any great importance to the city, save the destruction of the Cruive Dyke on the Don by the Earl of Mar and some other proprietors on its upper reaches ; the reparation of the Block-house on a threatened invasion ; and the establishment of a company of local militia, whose pay was raised by an assessment on the citizens.

On the death of Charles, the churches of the city were draped with black on the following Sabbath, and muffled bells tolled between the sermons ; Monday was devoted to unbounded joy on the accession of James II. to the throne ; but his arbitrary measures and open avowal of the Popish religion soon converted these expressions of loyalty into all the turbulence of opposing parties.

As there was no public event connected with this king's reign in which the citizens of Aberdeen were peculiarly interested, if we except the king's claiming the right to fill up the chief municipal offices in all the

burghs of Scotland, it is hardly consistent with our plan to make further allusion to the important national changes that he arbitrarily made, than to state that, while Papists were favoured, the Covenanters were still pursued with such rigour that the year 1685 was significantly called the "killing year," and that, on the threatened descent on Scotland by Argyll, and on England by Monmouth, 167 of the west-country Covenanters were doomed to suffer all the miseries of the "Whigs' vault" in the castle of Dunnottar. At length, when the king was exercising arbitrary power in all directions, and appeared determined on subjugating the country to the Pope, the Prince of Orange, who had married the eldest daughter of King James, encouraged by men of various parties, resolved to appear in Britain at the head of an armed force, in order to uphold their constitutional rights, and preserve their religious freedom; or, as it was expressed on the banner which he unfurled at Torbay, for "The Protestant religion and liberties of England". James, who, in the explicit language of the Scots, had forfeited his throne, clandestinely fled, and the advent of William and Mary was hailed with joy.

On the 18th December, James took his last ignominious flight, and William and Mary took up their residence in St. James's Palace. The Prince and Princess of Orange, having accepted the crown of England, were proclaimed King and Queen, the revolution was effected without bloodshed, and tyranny crushed! William and Mary likewise accepted the crown of Scotland, where the joy in hailing the revolution was proportionate to the oppression that she had endured.

The cause of James was maintained for a short time in the Highlands, but it may be considered as having ended by the fall of Claverhouse in the Pass of Killiecrankie. The Highlanders under Buchan, the successor of Dundee, for some time infested the town and neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and plundered the property of those who favoured the revolution ; and, as many of the inhabitants were not fully reconciled to it, a military force under Mackay remained for a considerable time in the city ; although the soldiers did not live at free quarters, yet the citizens received but small compensation for their provisions, and no reparation was ever made for the damage done in the neighbourhood both by horse and foot.

From the state of opinion both on civil and ecclesiastical matters, the news of this revolution was received in Aberdeen with about equally divided feelings—the Episcopalians adhering to the cause of James, and the Presbyterians rejoicing in the hope of emancipation from his assumption of supremacy in things spiritual. The Magistrates prepared an address of congratulation to their Majesties, which was presented by Dr. Garden, one of the town's ministers, who was graciously received at Court, although he was afterwards deprived of his charge for not *qualifying* to the King and Queen whom he had welcomed to the throne !

On the 16th December, 1701, James breathed his last at St. Germain's, and the French Court recognised the Pretender as James III., on which the English Ambassador was ordered to quit France without taking leave, while the French Ambassador was instantly sent out of

England, and the insolence of Louis was received with a burst of public indignation. But the impartial foot of death was also quickly approaching the gate of St. James's; and, with regret that he had not lived to see the prosperity of England and Scotland promoted by the Union, this pillar of Protestantism and reviver of constitutional freedom passed away, amid the regrets of his people, on the 8th February, 1702.

Anne, the only surviving daughter of James, succeeded King William by the act of settlement, and was proclaimed on the 23rd March with the usual demonstrations of joy on such occasions. In the early part of her reign (1707), the desire that had so long occupied the mind of William was at length accomplished in the union of England and Scotland into the kingdom of Great Britain.

By this treaty Aberdeen, together with Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Bervie, became entitled to send a member to the Parliament of the United Kingdom; and in October, 1708, John Gordon, Provost of Aberdeen, had the honour of being the first commissioner for that district of burghs. As a striking contrast to the state of things in the present day, it may be stated that this honour was conferred on Mr. Gordon without solicitation or expense, and that he was presented with £50 for his journey to the metropolis, besides a sum for his maintenance during the session of Parliament.

To a high-minded people, proud of those ancestors who had so bravely preserved the independence of their kingdom, the union could suggest unpleasant associations, and the discontent of many was so artfully in-



creased by the Jacobites that it was thought the descent of a French army on the Scottish coast would be so extensively joined by the maintainers of the divine right of kings that James might yet be restored to his forfeited throne. To this part of our history belong the negotiations of Hooke, who arrived at the Castle of Slains in the beginning of 1707, and received the bond of the principal families of the north to appear for James with all the men they could command.

At length 5000 troops, together with the Chevalier de St. George, attempted a landing in the Forth ; but the whole enterprise proved a miserable failure. The only link we have found connecting this expedition with this locality, is the fact that the Earl of Errol sent Mr. George, an Aberdeen skipper, to be the pilot ; but he, having gone ashore, lost his passage by "carousing among his friends".

As the brilliant period of Queen Anne's reign was drawing to a close, care was taken to secure the sea-ports, that the Jacobites might be prevented from attempting the restoration of the Stuarts. On the demise of the Queen, 1st August, 1714, King George was proclaimed, and on the 20th October he was crowned at Westminster. As his attachment to the Whigs increased the number of malcontents, so the Pretender, on whose head a reward of £100,000 had been set, took this opportunity to transmit a manifesto, complaining of the injustice done to him in proclaiming for their king a foreign prince. At this time the Earl of Mar assembled a body of his followers and retainers at Braemar, and there proclaimed the Chevalier de St.

George king of Great Britain, by the title of James VIII. Many of the Jacobites flocked to his standard ; and the Pretender was urged immediately to repair to Britain.







## CHAPTER XII.

### THE OUTBREAK OF THE REBELLION OF

1715.



THE Magistrates of Aberdeen, on receiving intelligence of these proceedings, armed the citizens and secured the ports, lest an attack should be made upon the city by the insurgents. The Government, however, seems to have been so little apprehensive of any danger in this quarter, that they required all the gunpowder in the town, nearly 3,700 lbs., to be delivered for the use of His Majesty's forces.

The Earl of Mar moved southwards, and formed his camp at Perth, where he was joined by many others who held similar views, while the Earl Marischal came to Aberdeen with a squadron of horse, and, on the 28th September, proclaimed the Pretender king with the usual ceremonies. The citizens, on an order from the Marischal, assembled next day in the East Church and chose Councillors for the ensuing year. Among their first resolutions was the imposition of a contribution of £200 10s. 9d. sterling, towards the supplies of the insurgent army, in virtue of an order from the Earl of Mar.

In a few days a loan of £2,000 was demanded, of which the sum of £500 was to be levied immediately. A printing press and 300 Lochaber axes were transmitted to Perth about the same time.

Mar, having been joined by the northern clans, broke up his camp at Perth, resolved to cross the Forth, unite with the Jacobites of the south, and so march into England. Having proceeded as far as Auchterarder, he learned that the Duke of Argyle, with the royal forces, was advancing towards Stirling. The two armies met, and, with considerable loss on both sides, the battle of Sherriffmuir was fought, in which, although both generals claimed victory, yet the fruits of the battle were reaped by Argyle, and all the trophies of victory remained in his hands ; while many of the clans forsook the standard of Mar, because they did not think that their lowland allies had done their part in the late engagement.

The Jacobite cause was no less unsuccessful in other quarters. Preston was surrendered to the royal troops ; Inverness was reduced by the Whiggish clans ; Huntly and Seaforth withdrew their men to protect their respective districts, so that Mar's army was greatly reduced, while that of Argyle was receiving powerful accessions.

The Chevalier, while his affairs wore this gloomy aspect, having escaped the English men-of-war, landed at Peterhead on the 22nd of December, attended by only six persons, and next day, passing through Aberdeen, without disclosing his rank, reached Fetteresso, a seat of the Earl Marischal. Thither Mar, with about 30 gentlemen repaired, and immediately after the ceremony of introduction, proclaimed "James VIII." at the door

of the house. There he received addresses from the Episcopal clergy and magistrates of Aberdeen. Having arrived at Perth, he was disappointed to find the number of men so small, and they were disappointed that he had brought with him neither men nor stores.

Early in January, Argyle, urged by the Government, prepared to march against Perth ; and Mar, on the last day of the month, began his retreat. When they had reached Montrose, the Chevalier, Mar, and a few others secretly took shipping and escaped to France ; the troops under General Gordon, proceeded to Aberdeen, and were there disbanded ; next day the advanced guards of Argyle entered the city ; but, although they pursued the fugitives, they never overtook them. Some gentlemen procured shipping at Peterhead and Fraserburgh, and others obtained the means of escaping in French vessels from the Orkney Islands, while the diminished host disappeared amid the wilds of Badenoch and Lochaber.

In 1719, an attempt was made, through the assistance of Spain, once more to kindle the flames of rebellion in favour of the Stuarts ; and the Earl Marischal landed with 3,000 Spanish soldiers, arms, and money, on the Island of Lewis ; but General Wightman encountered the combined forces of Spaniards and Highlanders in Glenshiel, when the latter were dispersed, and the former, on laying down their arms were made prisoners. The Marischal found his way to his ancient patrimonial domains, and embarked at Peterhead.

The death of the Emperor, Charles VI., 1740, gave rise to a general war in Europe, when the French

Ministry, in order to keep the British at home, concerted a plan of invasion in favour of the Pretender. Transports were collected, 15,000 men were shipped under the command of General Saxe, accompanied by Prince Charles. A storm, however, wrecked a number of the transports, and thus for a time put an end to the invasion, which might have been more serious in its results than that which followed ; for after the defeat of the British troops at Fontenoy, the young Pretender, impatient of delay, and in opposition to the advice of his Scottish friends, reached the West Highlands, and on the 25th of July, 1745, accompanied by seven persons, landed at Moidart, and on the 19th of August the Royal Standard was erected at Glenfinnan.

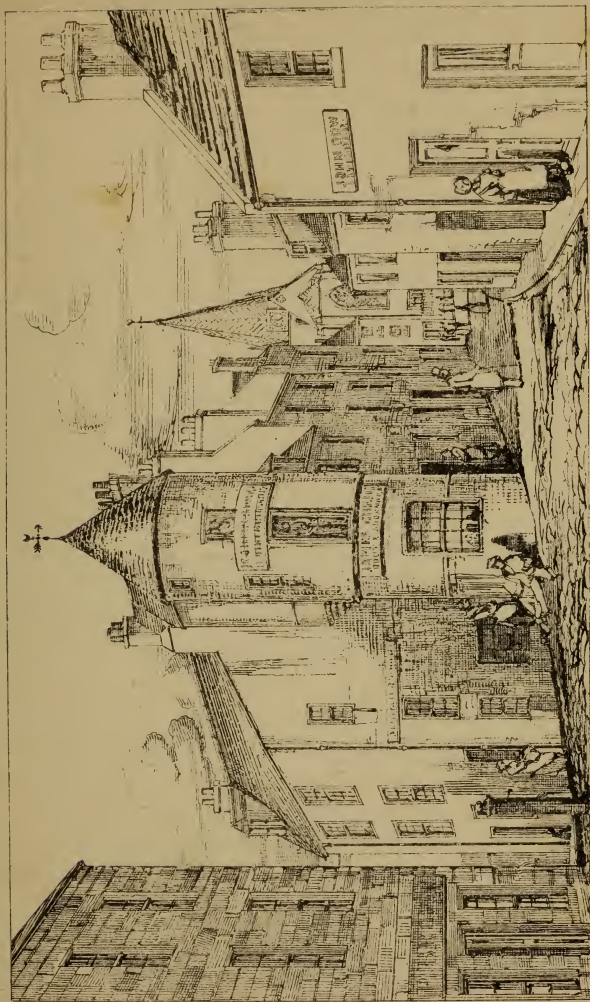
On the 10th September, Sir John Cope arrived from Inverness, at the head of 200 men, and encamped on the Doo-cot Brae, which is now part of the Union Terrace Gardens ; and on the 15th he embarked his troops and sailed for Dunbar. On the 27th the Chamberlain of the Duke of Gordon came to the city with 70 foot and 25 horse, released the prisoners, proclaimed the Pretender, and then proceeded to Edinburgh to join the insurgents there. In November, Lord Lewis Gordon took possession of the town in the name of Prince Charles, and in the succeeding month he defeated, at Inverurie, a party of loyal clans who were advancing to attack him.

The battle of Gladsmuir, the Prince's advance to Derby, and his retreat to the north, do not fall within our limits, and must be dismissed with this brief allusion ; while the notices we have of the contending parties in connection with Aberdeen, would so far ex-

ceed our limits that we can only select a few of the more prominent incidents.

From the time it was understood that the Pretender was on his route to the north till after Culloden, Aberdeen was in a state of great excitement ; as the post was frequently interrupted, vague reports oft represented the rebels as at hand. Fresh troops and cannon were said to be landed at Stonehaven ; now a body of troops was passing through the town in one direction, now in another ; at length considerable bodies of the rebels entered the city ; some of the masters of the Grammar School omitted to pray for King George ; a rumour that a minister who did pray was to be shot in the pulpit was circulated ; Chalmers, the printer, fled, his premises were forcibly entered, and his apprentices forced to print various papers for the rebels ; bon-fires blazed on the king's birth-day, and boys shouted around them—"King George for ever ; down with the Popish Pretender". At length "there came up the Nether Kirk-gate about a dozen of horse finely accoutered ; there was riding in the middle a young gentleman upon a fine gelding, and wrapped in a scarlet cloak ; all his attendants had their swords drawn, but no sword had he ; before him rode one better mounted than the rest, with a French horn ; immediately before him with drawn swords, rode some bareheaded ; at some distance, a boy richly mounted, beating a brass drum ; it is easy to guess who this is". That was supposed to be Prince Charles, but the narrator was mistaken.





655b & Roy Lithographs to Her Majesty Aberdeen

## WALLACE NOOK.







## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE TERMINATION OF THE REBELLION OF 1745.



ON the 23rd of February, the town was considered to be evacuated by all the rebels; and on the 25th advanced parties of the royalist dragoons and foot soldiers arrived. On the 27th the Duke of Cumberland was welcomed in the School-hill by a deputation of the Magistrates, who conducted him to his lodgings in the Guestrow. On the following day, "the ministers of the Synod, the Professors of both Colleges, and other respectable inhabitants, waited on His Royal Highness, bidding him welcome to the city, and congratulating him on his success; and in the beginning of March a ball was given in Marischal College, at which the Duke testified his approbation of the conduct of the citizens, and showed respect to the ladies and gentlemen who assembled on the occasion". He continued in the house of Mr. Thompson, advocate, for six weeks, "making use of every kind of provision found in the house, coals, candles, ales, or other liquours, in the cellar, and milk

of the cow ; bed and table linen, which were much spoiled and abused. When about to march from Aberdeen, he left six guineas to the three servants of the house ; but did not make the least compliment or requittal to Mr. Thompson for the so long and free use of his house, furniture, and provisions, nor so much as call for his landlord and landlady to return them thanks." In the *Jacobite Memoirs* from which this extract is taken, we have an equally uncourteous use of the furniture and provisions of the house of Mrs. Gordon of Hallhead, in which General Hawley was lodged ; she was deprived of everything except the clothes upon her back ; she could not get a little of her tea, because " it was scarce in the army " ; nor her china, " because it was very pretty "—in short, everything was refused her ! " On the eve of his departure," says Mrs. Gordon, " he packed up every bit of china I had, all my bedding and table linen, every book, my repeating clock, my worked screen, every rag of my husband's clothes—and put them on board a ship in the night time ! " " The best tea equipage was directed to the Duke of Cumberland at St. James's, and the set of coloured table china in the same manner. The rest of the things to General Hawley." She reckoned her loss at upwards of £600. To complete the picture, we are told that a friend who recognised the china in a shop window in London, in asking the shopman of whom he bought it, was informed " he had it from a woman of the town who told him it was given her by the Duke of Cumberland ".

The Duke, having placed a garrison of 200 men in Gordon's Hospital, left the town on the 8th of April,

having heard that the Spey was passable. We are not required to follow him and give an account of the war-like operations of either party in the north, further than to say that the decisive battle of Culloden was fought upon the 16th of April, by which the rebellion was entirely crushed, and the hopes of the Pretender completely destroyed.

The intelligence of the victory occasioned great rejoicings in the city, which were continued for many days, and addresses were transmitted both to the King and His Royal Highness on the success that had crowned their arms.

The Magistrates and Councillors voted an address and the freedom of the town to the Duke of Cumberland, and presented the burgess ticket in an elegant gilt box, with many expressions of admiration of his bravery and good conduct in so effectually crushing the rebellion.

After the battle Fleming's regiment returned to Aberdeen, and remained in cantonments during the summer. On the 18th of August, being the anniversary of George I., they ordered the windows to be illuminated. When this was not done so readily as the officers expected, they gave orders to the soldiers to break the windows. The Magistrates determined on suing them for the damage that had been done, but the matter was referred to arbitration, and those received compensation for their loss who chose to make application.

When the rebellion was thus ended and peace restored to the country, the Government felt the importance of preventing the Highlanders from again disturbing it. Martial law was proclaimed after the battle of Culloden,

followed by an Act abrogating the jurisdiction of Highland Chiefs ; the people were then obliged to fall back upon their own resources and industry, and to provide for themselves.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, Aberdeen was disgraced by kidnapping persons of both sexes, and transporting them to the American plantations, where they were sold as slaves. The persons found to be engaged in this nefarious traffic included one of the baillies and town clerk of the city, and the distress occasioned in many families, as some of their members were snatched away, was almost indescribable. Men patrolled the streets openly like *press-gangs*, and seized on such as they thought fit for their purpose ; ruffians scoured the surrounding neighbourhood, and even the remote valleys of the Highlands, and carried off their human prey ; and, in some instances, as a scarcity prevailed at the time, the poor were tempted to sell their relatives. The persons thus kidnapped were shut up in a barn in the Green, in the work-house, or in the tollbooth. Parents might be seen in a frantic state running through the streets, endeavouring to obtain the release of their children, or crowding around the windows of the houses where they were confined to bestow on them their blessing, or to take farewell of them. On departing in anguish, they left their maledictions on the authors of their misery.

There was no means then of ascertaining the number of those that were kidnapped ; but as one vessel that left the harbour in 1743 contained no fewer than sixty-nine persons, and as the trade was known to have been

carried on for six years, we cannot be far wrong in estimating the whole at between five and six hundred. They were sold to planters for a term of years, and they were treated with cruelty to such an extent "that they were often forced to desperate measures, and to do away with themselves". So little were the rights of the people then regarded, and such was the dread of offending those in power, that when a father who had been robbed of his son instituted an action before the Lords of Session, no officer in Aberdeen could be prevailed on to cite the parties to appear in court.

At length the arm of justice reached these traffickers in white slaves. Peter Williamson, after many romantic adventures, returned from his slavery in 1757, and at York published an account of his adventures from the time he had been carried off. Naturally desirous of hearing of his parents, he arrived in Aberdeen in 1758, where he exhibited himself in the dress of an American savage, and where his pamphlet met with an extensive sale. He was, however, dragged before the Magistrates, and accused of issuing a scurrilous libel on the City of Aberdeen ; the obnoxious pages were condemned to be burned by the hangman ; the author was imprisoned till he should deny his assertions ; he was then subjected to a fine and banished from the City. Williamson brought an action against the Corporation, and the Court unanimously awarded him damages to the amount of £100, besides expenses, which amounted to £80 more. Another action was brought against Baillie Fordyce, from whom Williamson obtained £200 as damages, in addition to the costs, which were modified to one hundred guineas.





## CHAPTER XIV.

### OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.



IN 1756, disputes having arisen between Great Britain and France, concerning the British settlements in America, formidable armaments were fitted out both by sea and land. As an invasion of Britain was threatened by France, so the Magistrates of Aberdeen adopted the necessary measures for the defence of the City. The blockhouse was repaired and mounted with four *twelve-pounders*, and the citizens were enrolled as volunteers ; but happily their services were never required.

The 22nd September, 1761, having been fixed for the coronation of King George III. and Queen Caroline, was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the blazing of bonfires ; a concert was held in Marischal College ; the healths of the king and queen were drunk on the Castlegate, amid the firing of volleys ; the trades made a grand procession through the streets ; and in the evening the houses were brilliantly illuminated.

A long continuance of unfavourable weather retarded

the harvest of 1767, and threatened scarcity. The rise in the price of oats led to a "meal-mob," which the Magistrates being unable to constrain, were compelled to call the military to their assistance, when one man was killed and several were wounded. One of the ringleaders was transported, and another was banished the kingdom, in virtue of the sentence of the Circuit Court.

When the war which terminated in American independence was drawing to a close, the attention of many statesmen was directed to Parliamentary reform, and the subject was introduced into the House of Commons by Pitt in 1782; but his measures were opposed, and for a time abandoned. This agitation, however, seems to have aroused the minds of many to seek a reform in the self-electing and irresponsible system of the royal burghs of Scotland. Aberdeen was amongst the first to move in this matter, and an important letter, written by Mr. Ewing, merchant, was addressed to Pitt on the subject, and an association was formed which had a great influence in ultimately leading to the desiderated reform.

The French Revolution involved Britain in a war of nearly twenty-two years' duration, which terminated in the decisive victory of Waterloo, fought on the 18th of June, 1815. As the invasion of the country was frequently threatened in the beginning of this war, the whole country was soon in arms, prepared to repel the invader. The citizens of Aberdeen raised a corps of volunteers without any consideration for their services or allowance for clothing or uniform. They continued to serve with great zeal for several years, till the

Government adopted a plan for employing the services of all that were capable of bearing arms, not only for preserving internal tranquillity, but also for repelling any attempt at invasion.

The beginning of the century was rendered memorable by great disasters at sea, in which a large number of ships and about 100 men belonging to the port were lost.

In celebrating the anniversary of the king's birth day, in 1802, an untoward occurrence in the evening resulted in the loss of the lives of several citizens. The officers of the *Ross and Cromarty Rangers* had, together with the magistrates, been drinking His Majesty's health in the town-hall, and on returning to the barracks they afforded evidence of having partaken freely of the wine, when the boys on the streets on such occasions, began to pelt them with garbage. The officers called out the soldiers, who fired repeatedly upon the populace, four of whom were killed and many severely wounded.. Three of the officers and two sergeants were brought before the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, when the jury found the officers *not guilty*, and the libel against the sergeants *not proven* !

As the shipping and commerce of Aberdeen had greatly increased, the Magistrates and Harbour Commissioners entered on those improvements chalked out by Telford in 1810, which, from time to time, have been continued to the present day, as they have been noticed in the previous part of this history.

On the 1st of April, 1813, a violent tempest, accompanied with a heavy fall of snow, occasioned a great

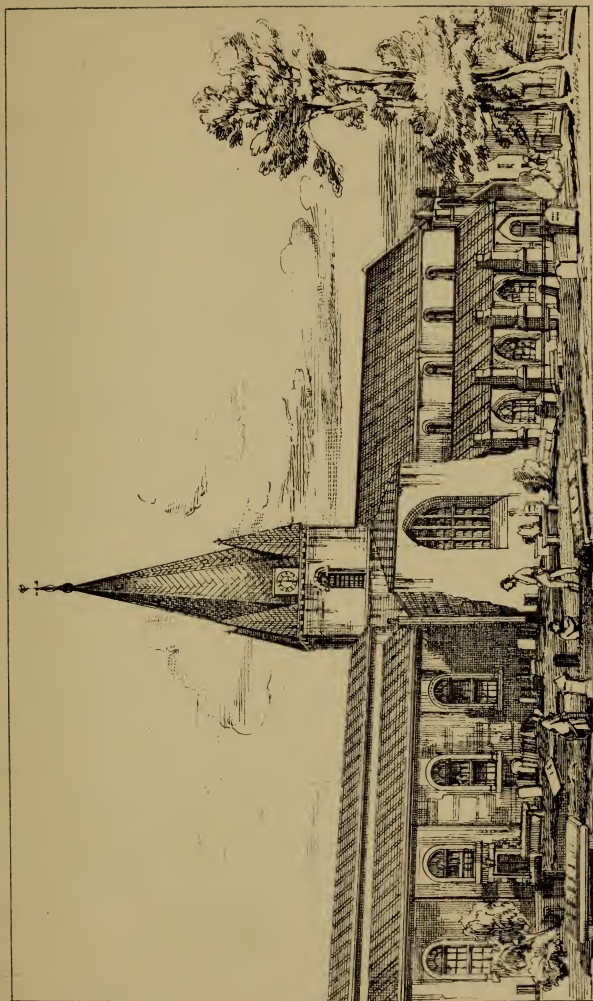
disaster to one of the Greenland whale ships that had put to sea, with a melancholy loss of life. The Oscar was lost in the Grey-hope a little to the south of the mouth of the Dee, and only *two* out of a crew of forty-four were saved.

On the 13th of August, 1816, a shock of an earthquake was felt in various parts of the town and neighbourhood, which lasted nearly six seconds ; and, about three-quarters of an hour afterwards, another but a slighter shock was distinctly felt. This is the only instance of a similar occurrence in this quarter since 1608.

At an early period in the history of the city, we meet with houses of different orders of Friars, a monastery dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and the parish church dedicated to St. Nicholas, who was Bishop of Myra in Lycia, a province in Asia Minor. He was esteemed the patron of Mariners, and this may probably have recommended him to the citizens of Aberdeen, who commemorated his nativity with great festivity. The date of the foundation of the church has not been ascertained, but it appears to have been in a flourishing condition in the thirteenth century. The church of St. Nicholas, as a dependency on the Bishopric, was served by a vicar, together with a curate and chaplains, who, in 1491, were twenty-two in number ; but, in 1519, were restricted to sixteen. John de Kynegorne was instituted to the vicarage about the year 1342, by Bishop Alexander Kynynmonde, who succeeded to the Episcopal See in 1329. Divine Service was performed and masses were celebrated by the curate and chaplains ; and the institution was supported by the Magistrates, who were patrons,

and by donations from the people ; and the fabric of the church was maintained by taxes on the community. What rendered so many chaplains necessary, and afforded the principal part of their support, was the erection of chantry altars, which were dedicated to particular saints, and endowed by many of the citizens. Kennedy, in his *Annals*, has given an account of thirty-one of these altars, stating to what saints they were dedicated and by what citizen they were endowed, in order that, on the anniversary of their death, masses might be said and prayers offered for their own souls and those both of their ancestors and successors. The endowments of these altars arose from grants of certain crofts or tenements. One of these chantries was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the parchment deed, with the seals of Collison and Rudderford, of date 1550, was discovered on the taking down of an old house in 1868, by which a piece of ground running from the Gallowgate to the margin of the Loch had been conveyed to the chaplain who had served it. As twelve persons had to be present at the celebration of these masses, the bellman was sent through the town to convene the people ; and as a further inducement to the poor to congregate on such occasions, certain alms, destined for that purpose by the founders of the altars, were distributed among the poor who chose to be present.





Gabb & Hay Lithographers to Her Majesty, Aberdeen.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.







## CHAPTER XV.

### ST. NICHOLAS ALTAR AND CHURCH BELLS.



IN 1340, the largest image of St. Nicholas, which was placed over the centre of the high altar, was presented; and in 1351, William de Leith, provost of Aberdeen, presented to the church two large bells, the one called *Lawrence* the other *Maria*, besides contributing to the Quire and aisle. In the year 1485, we find the Council and community imposing a tax on all sheep and swine brought into the town, in order to defray the expense of constructing new organs. From an early period, we find that the towns' salmon fishing had been prosecuted on Sabbath, and that, for the support of the church, a certain proportion of the fish then caught was appropriated under the name of *holy day's fish*! In 1477, Walter Young, chaplain, was appointed to perform divine service in the church for an yearly salary of ten merks, and his meals for five days of the week from five of the wealthiest inhabitants alternately. In the year 1575, the approach of the Reformation led the chaplains to resign the whole lands, fishings, and annuities they had received from the

people to the Magistrates, for the benefit of St. Thomas' Hospital, an asylum for decayed brethren of Guild, reserving to themselves, however, the life rent of the property for their maintenance.

As previously stated, the precise date of the foundation of St. Nicholas church has not been satisfactorily ascertained. It was built in the Gothic style of architecture, and divided from the quire by a wooden screen, which, after the Reformation, was replaced by a wall, that thus formed the whole building into two churches.

In 1685, Baillie Skene gives the following description of these two churches :—

“ Aberdeen hath ever had since the time of *Poperie* a great and fair *Fabric*, containing two great and spacious churches for Public Worship ; the greatest towards the *west* is called the *Old-church*, the lesser towards the *east* is called the *New-church*, with a stately *spire* or *steeple* ; the *churches* and *spire* or *steeple* are covered beautifully with *lead*, and within plenished neatly with good *Dasks* and *Galries* of excellent Workmanship of *Wainscot*, and great large *Lights* and *Windows*.

“ In the steeple are three great harmonious *Bells*, in sound each descending below another, but by one Musical Note, as upon a *Bimull-clieff*, and these three Bells strike twenty-four stroakes at every half-hour in a sweet and pleasant Concord, the great Clock having four fair *Horologes* with conspicuous *Figures* clearly gilded, one to every Airth, viz :—*South*, *North*, *East*, and *West*, for use to every part of the *City* and *Suburbs*. These *Bells* being rung for conveening to Public Worship, on Sabbath Dayes, there is but one *Bell* rung

first, at the second two *Bells*, and at the third three *Bells*, which make a grave and melodious Melodie.”

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, the West church became ruinous, the lead, before referred to, was stripped off, and in 1742, the whole fabric fell in ruins.

The quire, which was begun to be erected on the east end of the church in 1477, was not completed till 1507, and in the following year it was consecrated by Bishop Elphinstone. In the middle of the sixteenth century, when the influence of the Reformation began to be felt in the north, the Magistrates required the chaplains to produce the chalices and other silver work that, in the course of ages had been presented to the church ; but the whole amounted only to about 320 oz. of silver.

In the year 1751, the Magistrates entered into contracts with an Aberdeen mason and an Edinburgh wright for the erection of a new church on the site of the old one, according to plans by Mr. James Gibb, an eminent architect in London, but a native of Aberdeen, and the building was completed in 1755, when the church was opened for divine service by the Rev. James Ogilvie, and thus in its turn became the *new* church—an order of things which the present generation has again seen reversed. The square tower which stands between the two churches, familiarly known as Drum’s Aisle, is terminated by an octagonal steeple, which rises to the height of 140 feet above ground. To the bells, three in number, which were formerly in this tower, five were added in 1859, so that bell-ringing was practised for a time in a scientific manner.

In the year 1834, during the incumbency of the Rev.

James Foote, D.D., the East church, which was constructed of sandstone brought from Morayshire, was rebuilt with Aberdeen granite in the plain Gothic style. Under the east end of the church is a small chapel, called the Cell of our Lady of Pity, or St. Mary's Chapel, in which ecclesiastical meetings are occasionally held. But this church, along with the tower, was totally consumed by fire on the night of the 9th October, 1874, along with the bells in the tower; and this disastrous fire is supposed to have arisen from an accumulation of gas in the roof of the church; but St. Mary's chapel was preserved.

The church was rebuilt soon after the fire, the tower also was rebuilt of granite, about five years after the fire, on a more ornate plan; but the bells have not been restored to it in consequence of some difference having arisen between the Kirk Sessions and the Magistrates as to who should have the charge of the bells. The expense of the tower is said to have been £10,000.

These churches are surrounded by a crowded graveyard, the southern side of which, running along Union Street, is enclosed by a handsome Façade. But our space forbids any reference to the numerous monuments and interesting inscriptions that occur in the burying ground, beyond the mere mention of a monumental brass in the West church, in honour of Dr. Duncan Liddel, who died in 1613, and to a monument in memory of Mrs. Allardyce, of Dunnottar, by Bacon; while the east end of the West church is ornamented by two pieces of tapestry, executed by Mary Jameson, daughter of the celebrated painter.

Among the other places dedicated to religious worship in the City at an early period, was St. Catherine's Chapel, built on the hill to which it gave name, near the west end of the Castlegate in the year 1242. St. Ninian's Chapel stood within the ramparts of the Castle-hill, and in the year 1566 the east end of it was converted into a light-house ; on the top of it was placed the flag-staff of the town ; and in 1677 the celebrated Robert Barclay of Ury, and other "Friends" were imprisoned in a dark apartment of it ; but in 1794 the area within the ramparts, together with the Chapel, was presented to the Government for the purpose of erecting the Military Barracks.

Baillie Skene says :—" There is another Fabric in the midst of the City, of a large length, called the *Grey Friars Church*, with a little *spire* or *steeple*, and a *Bell*, which is always rung for convening to all public *Lessons* in the *Colledge*, and a public clock." This church had belonged to the *Grey-Friars*, and is said to have been erected for them by Bishop Gavin Dunbar, about the beginning of the sixteenth century. The Magistrates in 1567 acquired a right to the property, for the purpose of establishing an hospital for indigent persons who were disabled, and for orphans. This purpose, however, was never accomplished, and at last the property, with the reservation of the church, was presented to Earl Marischal for the site of his college. In 1768, the church underwent a thorough repair ; the length alluded to above was reduced by twenty feet, and the "little spire" was removed ; and now it is desirable that the whole structure were removed altogether that the front



of Marischal College might be opened up to Broad Street.

The Trinity Church had also its *little steeple* ; but at the Reformation, when the monastery of the Trinity Friars was suppressed, and their buildings and church had ultimately become the property of Dr. Guild, it was presented by him to the Incorporated Trades, by whom the chapel was repaired in 1630.

In 1794, on the Magistrates refusing to grant the hearers of the East Church a voice in the "call" of a minister, the dissentients, with the sanction of the Presbytery, erected, on the site of the old chapel, a large building without any architectural pretensions, which continued to be numerously attended till the Disruption, when the building, having been disused as a place of worship for several years, was at length converted into a Music Hall.

"There is a Fabric," says our old historian, "buildd by the *citizens* for the Inhabitants of the Village of *Futtie*, appointed for catechising the people, which since hath had a *Minister* to preach, though not a distinct *Parish*. All the *citizens* and that people being under one *Session* or *Constitutionall* for discipline." This place of worship, in a very humble form, was built by the Magistrates about the year 1498, and the fishers contributed so much per boat to the maintenance of the chaplain, by whom two weekly masses were duly said till the time of the Reformation, when the chapel was allowed to fall into decay ; but in 1631 the chapel was repaired by voluntary contributions, and George Davidson, of Pettens, surrounded the grave-yard with a stone

“dyk,” as is indicated by an inscription on a stone in the wall. In 1787 the old fabric was demolished, and a more commodious structure, with a belfry, was erected in its place ; which was replaced in 1828 by the present neat building in the Gothic style, with an elegant tower or belfry. The district of Footdee has been constituted a parish named St. Clements—to whom the original church had been dedicated.

Such were the churches to which the inhabitants repaired to worship at this early period ; but, as the population increased, additional accommodation was required. This necessity produced Chapels of Ease in connection with the Establishment, and meeting places for the various sects that dissented either from its doctrines, discipline, or government. It was not, however, till 1828 that the Parish of St. Nicholas was divided into six parishes by a decret of the Court of Teinds, and by an Act of the General Assembly in 1834. The Chapels of Ease were connected with a parochial district *quoad sacra*. Thus, to the four churches already alluded to, were added the South church, which in 1830 replaced a chapel that had been built by the relief body in 1779, and soon after became connected with the Establishment. The present North church was erected in 1826, into which the minister of the East church was inducted.

But of the numerous places of worship that have been built in more recent times, we can only give a brief notice, premising that many of them have been rebuilt, and that, as a general rule, they have been brought out of obscure corners into more prominent situations.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE REFORMATION.



NOTWITHSTANDING the deliverance that was effected by the Reformation; not a few in these northern parts, under the wing of families of influence, still adhered to the despotism that had been overthrown. As our forefathers regarded the Papacy inimical to their civil rights, so civil restraints were laid upon the professors of a religion that taught them to transfer their allegiance to a foreign power. For many years, therefore, after the overthrow of Popery by the nation, its adherents had no public place of worship in Aberdeen; their priests, however, performed their rites of religion in private houses, and met with little inconvenience. In 1700 it was said there were only eighty persons of that persuasion in Aberdeen, and rather more than a century ago they began to worship more openly, and fitted up a house in the north-east corner of the Castlegate as a place of worship; this house was replaced by a chapel, built in 1803 and enlarged in 1814, which continued to be their place of worship, dedicated to St. Peter, till a spacious

and imposing church was built about the year 1870, in Huntly Street, and called the Church of the Assumption.

The Episcopal form of church government being so much favoured by the House of Stuart, and as the ardour for the Covenant in loyal Aberdeen was weak compared with that of other places, so the ministers of St. Nicholas continued, for several years after the abolition of prelacy, to administer the ordinances of religion after the mode of Scottish Episcopacy. This irregularity, however, was terminated by the General Assembly. The ministers of this persuasion who declined to take the prescribed oath were consequently called non-jurors, and, on account of the sympathy they showed with the movements for the restoration of the Stuarts, they exposed themselves to pains and penalties. After the Revolution there were generally two Episcopalian meeting houses in Aberdeen ; one of the congregations, under Bishop John Skinner, built a place of worship in Long-acre in 1776 ; and, about twenty years afterwards, a spacious chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew, was built in its place, and in 1817 the congregation removed to the elegant building bearing the same name in King Street. The other Episcopal congregation, who had their chapel in Golden Square, removed some years ago to a new church in Crown Terrace.

A number of those who adhered to the Episcopalian persuasion formed themselves into a congregation in which a clergyman, ordained by an English Bishop, should conduct worship according to the forms of the Church of England. In 1721 they erected a chapel on

the west side of the Gallowgate, dedicated to St. Paul, which was replaced by an elegant building in 1866.

As those are the oldest representative Episcopal congregations, a more particular account of them has been given than our space will afford of those more recently formed, and have their places of worship in Crown Terrace ; St. James's, Crown Street ; St. Mary's, Carden Place ; and St. Margaret's, Seamount Place.

We now come to those congregations who represent the seceders from the Church of Scotland, the first of which was connected with the Burgher Synod, and was formed by those who, in 1756, had been denied the right of popular call on the death of the Rev. John Bisset. They fitted up a place of worship in the Weigh-house Square, and hence the granary that stands there was wont to be called the Old Kirk. In 1772, they erected a place of worship in St. Nicholas Street, which is now the Free Melville Church. On the death of the then minister, Mr. Dick, in 1795, the congregation failed to preserve unanimity in the choice of a successor, consequently, the minority erected a place of worship in Belmont Street, and united themselves with the Associate Burgher Synod. Their church was removed to St. Nicholas Lane, which has been replaced by a more commodious building.

The Anti-burgher Seceders erected their church on the east side of Belmont Street in 1780, and it has recently been replaced by an elegant building in dressed granite. Another Anti-burgher place of worship was erected in Skene Terrace in 1810, and still retains its original denomination, whilst those in George Street,



Charlotte Street, and St. Paul Street, and Nelson Street, are all embraced under the denomination of the United Presbyterian Church.

There was a chapel of relief on the west side of the Shiprow, which was removed, by the formation of Market Street, to John Street, but, together with another in St. Paul Street, it is now connected with the Evangelical Union.

The Gaelic population of the city, having been formed into a congregation by Dr. Ronald Bayne, worshipped for some time in St. Mary's Chapel, under the East Church; but in 1795 they erected a chapel in Gaelic Lane, which is now in connection with the Free Church.

The Congregationalists erected a place of worship in a court on the west side of George Street in 1789; and the congregation, about twelve years ago, removed to an elegant and commodious structure on the west side of Belmont Street. The other Independent Churches are those in Frederick Street, Blackfriars Street, Park Street, and Shiprow.

The celebrated John Wesley appeared in Aberdeen in 1761, and those who adhered to his doctrine built a church on the north side of Queen Street, but ultimately the congregation removed it to Longacre, and recently they have built a conspicuous place of worship in Crown Terrace. A branch of this congregation several years ago connected themselves with the Free Methodist Church, and worship in a neat building in Dee Street.

At an early period, the Society of Friends or Quakers had their representatives in Aberdeen, and an interesting



account of their proceedings will be found in the life of Alexander Jaffray, published in 1833. The place of meeting was for a long time on the west side of the Guestrow, but it is now in Diamond Street.

The Baptists are divided into Scottish and English ; the former have their meeting houses in George Street and South Silver Street, and the latter erected a new church about fifteen years ago in Crown Place.

A chapel for the Christian Unitarian congregation was erected in George Street in 1840.

But the most important change in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland is that which terminated in the great Disruption of the Established Church. On the 18th of May, 1843, no fewer than 474 ministers left the Established Church, and, together with the elders seceding, constituted the Free Church of Scotland. Most of the cities and parishes throughout the land contributed their quota ; and, although the moderation of Aberdeen had become proverbial, yet Aberdeen alone enjoyed the distinction of seeing all her ministers who were connected with the Established Church relinquish their status and emolument, and join the phalanx that marched from Saint Andrew's Church to the Canon-mill's Hall. As a general rule the majority of each congregation in Aberdeen followed their ministers, and churches accordingly had to be built for them.

For the most part, the Free Churches were built in the district wherein those stood which belonged to the Establishment. Union Church in the Shiprow, Melville in St. Nicholas Street, and the Gaelic Church continued in the possession of their respective con-

gregations ; while the West and Gilcomston congregations have built elegant churches in Union Street, and new churches and congregations have been formed at Ferryhill and Queen's Cross recently, and built almost alongside of those built by the Establishment.





## CHAPTER XVII.

### EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.



THE attention that was bestowed on education by the Reformers is undeniable ; and by planting a school beside every parish church, they laid the ground-work of that popular education which has contributed so much to elevate the intellectual character of Scotsmen. For some years previous to 1481, Andrew de Syves, vicar of Bervy, had been master of the Grammar School, for, on his death in that year, the magistrates presented John Homyll to the office, and the Chancellor of Aberdeen granted him a collation.

Previous to the Reformation, the rector, accompanied by one of his scholars, who was dressed as a bishop, visited the parents of the children under his charge on the festival of St. Nicholas, and claimed a contribution of 4s. Scots money ; and this custom was superseded by donations at the Candlemas festival, when certain honours and privileges were conferred on those who contributed most ; but this practice in its turn was swept away towards the close of the eighteenth century by an Act of the Town Council. In 1612, some of the scholars,

impatient of the discipline of Mr. Wedderburn, the rector, and becoming mutinous, armed themselves, took possession of the Sang School, and threatened acts of violence, when the magistrates, interposing their authority, sent the ringleaders to prison, and expelled twenty-one of the more prominent insurgents from the city. Towards the close of the seventeenth century, the scholars in the high class were wont to shoot for a silver arrow, when the victor attached a silver medal, bearing the arms of his family or some other device, together with his name and date of competition, to the arrow, which was preserved in the school. A description of fourteen of these medals is given by Kennedy in his *Annals*. The endowments of the Grammar School have arisen from the donations of several benefactors, the greatest of whom was Dr. Patrick Dun, who, in 1634, presented the lands of Ferryhill for the benefit of the four masters. In ancient times this school consisted of detached buildings, but, in 1757, a building forming three sides of a square was erected ; but the increase of scholars rendered it necessary to erect two wings behind the central building, denominated the public school. Several years ago the classes in this institution were removed to the new building at Westfield, and the rooms in the old building in the Schoolhill have since been occupied as warerooms and workshops.

The cultivation of music in Aberdeen dates from a very early period ; for, in 1475, we find Richard Boyle, one of the chaplains of the church, appointed by the Council, and master of the Sang School. After the Reformation it was denominated the Music School, of

which Andrew Kemp was appointed master in 1570 ; but in 1758 the School, which adjoined the church-yard, was sold, and since that time teachers of this accomplishment have had to depend upon their own exertions and merits for success. Precentors usually teach sacred music in the congregations to which they belong, and the taste for secular music is kept up by the Choral Union, Musical Association, and several Instrumental Bands, and will be farther promoted by the intended revival of the " Song School ".

An English School was instituted by the magistrates in 1672 ; this school was established in Drum's Lane, but the school was transferred about forty years ago to more suitable buildings in Little Belmont Street, in which the scholars of the Writing and Arithmetic School of 1670, and those in the Correction Wynd School were likewise accommodated.

In 1788, James Thain, merchant, bequeathed a considerable sum of money to endow a school in the Shiprow for the education of poor children, and a similar institution at Footdee is known as Davidson's School.

There are three endowed schools known respectively as Ross's in Holburn Street, Dr. John Brown's in Skene Square, and Miss Chalmers's at Westfield. The Boys and Girls Hospital in King Street was instituted in 1739, for the maintenance and education of poor children of the parish of St. Nicholas.

The school for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, in Belmont Street was instituted in 1819 ; and the Asylum for the Blind in Huntly Street in 1843. Mrs. Emslie's Institution for Female Orphans in Albyn

Place was opened in 1840; and the Hospital for Orphan and Destitute Female Children in Huntly Street in 1849. There are two Female Schools of Industry, and an Industrial School for Boys, recently removed from Skene Square to Oakbank. A Reformatory School for Boys was opened at Oldmill in 1857, and another for Girls in Mount Street in 1862.

Robert Gordon's Hospital was founded in 1729, for the maintenance and education of sons and grandsons of Burgesses of Guild and Trades Burgesses of the city, and an additional endowment was made to it in 1816, by Alexander Simpson of Collyhill, by which the area of selection has been widened.

The Mechanics' Institution began its operations in 1824, and the School of Science and Art in connection with the Committee of Council on Education has been conjoined with it.

Both these institutions are at present in a transitional state. Robert Gordon's Hospital is now called Robert Gordon's College, and it is proposed to amalgamate the Mechanics' Institution with the College, and hand over the very valuable library which belongs to the latter.

In 1835, a school was erected in Frederick Street, the expense of which was defrayed out of a bequest by Dr. Andrew Bell, in which instruction is communicated on the Madras system, by a male and female teacher, for a low weekly fee, while books and writing materials are furnished *gratis*.

While the School Board, which consists of thirteen members according to the recent Act on Education, have built or are in the course of building, eight schools



in various parts of the municipality, viz :—One at Causewayend, one at Skene Street, one in the Gallowgate, one in Commerce Street, one in Footdee, one in King Street, one in Marywell Street, and one at Ferryhill.

For the convenience of Students of Divinity residing in the north, and holding the principles of the Free Church, an elegant building in the Elizabethan style of architecture was erected in Alford Place, in 1850, at an expense of £2,000, and has been enlarged of late through the bequest of the late Alexander Thomson of Banchory, who also bequeathed to it his valuable Library and Museum. There are three professors with an average attendance of thirty students.





## CHAPTER XVIII.

### MARISCHAL COLLEGE



AS founded and endowed by George Keith, fifth Earl Marischal, by charter, dated 22nd April, 1593, by which he conveyed to the principal and masters of the College, the ground and houses at the top and east side of Broad Street, which belonged to the Franciscan or Grey Friars ; also the lands, crofts, tenements, and feu-duties, formerly belonging to the Dominicans or Black Friars, and the Carmelites or White Friars of Aberdeen. The founder also presented the property of the White Friars at Bervie, and the revenues of their chapel at Cowie in Kincardineshire. Among other considerable benefactors of the institution, besides the noble founder, were Bishop Burnett of Salisbury, and the Rev. Gilbert Burnett of Barbadoes, Messrs. William Davidson, John Gray, Adam Martin ; Mrs. Blackwell, Dr. James Cargill, Sir Thomas Crombie, Dr. Duncan Liddel, Irvine of Drum, and Scott of Craibstone.

The General Assembly which met at Dundee on the 6th of April, 1593, approved of the new institution, and

the Parliament, held at Edinburgh on the 21st July following, confirmed the "said foundatione and erection".

Professors of Greek, Mathematics, Medicine, Divinity, Oriental Languages, and Chemistry, were subsequently founded by various benefactors, and donations to support bursaries began to be made as early as 1644. At first one Professor carried forward the same class for three years, and the course of instruction began with Logic, passed through Pneumatology and Morals, and finished with Natural Philosophy. Aristotle, however, gave way to Bacon and Newton, and in 1755 an entirely new system of teaching was adopted, which has substantially been since pursued.

In the early part of the present century little remained of the Franciscan monastery except the church, the greater part of the buildings of the College having been built about 1676, and an additional wing in 1739, but without regard to convenience or uniformity of plan, the whole structure was neither graceful without nor commodious within. Latterly, and as the whole structure began to show rapid signs of decay, it was resolved to build the "University" in a style suitable to its importance, for which purpose subscriptions were obtained from citizens, and from gentlemen in all parts of the country, who were connected with, or had been educated at, Marischal College.

In 1838, the subscriptions for rebuilding the College, including £15,000 of a Royal grant, amounted to £25,000, and out of this sum £21,420 was spent in building the present splendid Gothic edifice of finely

dressed grey granite, from designs by the late Archibald Simpson, architect.

The present elegant pile of buildings, which contains every convenience for going through a full curriculum of Arts, was begun in 1837 and finished in 1841. The museum in the College contains numerous specimens in the several departments of natural history, and articles of curiosity. The College also possesses a number of fine paintings by Jameson, and there are portraits of Sir Paul Menzies, Sir Robert Gordon, Dr. Andrew Johnston, and Andrew Cant. There are also portraits of the Royal Stuart Family, and of the Earl Marischal, founder of the College ; the last Earl, and his brother, Field Marshal Keith ; Bishop Burnett of Salisbury, and of the Earl of Bute.

Though King's and Marischal Colleges are only about a mile apart, yet they were totally independent of each other. As far back as 1641, on the abolition of Prelacy, they were united into one University, reserving to each College its primitive powers and privileges ; but on the restoration of Prelacy, in 1661, and the assumption of the Chancellorship by the Bishop of Aberdeen, the Act by which the union had been confirmed, was regarded as rescinded, and the Colleges had little connection with each other. Various other schemes were propounded with a view to union, as in 1754 ; but when the seat of the University was fixed at Marischal College by the decision of the Earl of Findlater as arbiter, the opposition of King's College terminated the whole arrangement. In 1786, another attempt was made by some of the Professors of both Colleges to effect a union, but

the scheme was again frustrated by a majority of the members of King's College. After the lapse of more than half a century, the project of forming the two Colleges into one University was revived, and in opposition to the inhabitants of Aberdeen and neighbourhood, Marischal College was incorporated with King's College, under the name of the University of Aberdeen, in 1859, and the splendid building, of which the citizens had reason to be proud, was shorn of its dignity, and to a great extent was left desolate.

The library of Marischal College contains a valuable collection of books, consisting of works of the Fathers in vellum MS., formerly belonging to the church of Saint Nicholas. The ancient Roman Service-Book, presented by Bishop Burnett, and several MSS., breviaries, missals, ornamented with miniature paintings; and the library of Mr. Thomas Reid, A.M., Latin Secretary to King James VI. In 1782, the Earl of Bute, then Chancellor of the College, presented about 1400 volumes, and afterwards it was enriched by the libraries of Sir William Fordyce and Professor Donaldson, and a large number of valuable works acquired by donation and subscription.

In the quadrangle of the College buildings there is an obelisk, rising to an elevation of 72 feet, and composed of polished Peterhead granite. It was erected to the memory of Sir James M'Gregor, who presided over the medical department of the army for 36 years, and was on several occasions chosen Lord Rector of the College. He died in 1858.

*Gordon's Hospital*, now Gordon's College, was founded in 1729, by Robert Gordon, merchant, and Burgess of

the City of Aberdeen, for the maintenance and education of boys of indigent parents of the city, and for putting them to trades and employments. The founder died in 1732, leaving property, chiefly personal, equal in value to £10,300, which he left to the management of the Provost, Baillies, and Council, along with "the town's four ministers, as his sole and only executors"; and directed the money which he left "to be employed for erecting and maintaining an Hospital to be called in all succeeding generations, Robert Gordon's Hospital, founded by his appointment, for educating indigent children".

The ground on which the Hospital stands, was formerly the property of the Black Friars and Jean Guild's mortification, and was purchased by the founder. Soon after his death the governors of the fund built the Hospital from a plan, according to Douglas, "presented to the town by the celebrated Mr. James Gibbs, a native of Aberdeen," who was architect of the Ratcliffe Library at Oxford, the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and the West Church in Aberdeen.

The edifice was finished in 1739, and it cost £3,300; but as the expense of the building had considerably encroached upon the funds of the trust, it was not opened till 1750 (except for a short time during the rebellion of 1745, it was occupied by the Duke of Cumberland's troops as barracks), by which time the stock was made up and the funds had accumulated to £14,000, after deducting the cost of the building, when the Hospital was opened with 30 boys. In 1841, there were 150 inmates on the foundation, and in 1881 there were about 200 inmates.



In 1772, the trustees were incorporated by Royal Charter, and for the year ending 31st October, 1881, the revenue from the lands of Orchardtown and Dumbreck in Udney, the lands of Towie in Auchterless, the lands of Findon in Kincardineshire, Heritages in Aberdeen, and casual receipts amounted to £5,550 sterling.

In 1816, the funds of the Hospital were largely augmented by the munificent bequest of the late Alexander Simpson of Collyhill, who conveyed to the principal and professors of Marischal College, and the four ministers of Aberdeen, the lands of Upper Crichton in the Parish of Old Deer, and of Barrack in New Deer, for the benefit of the sons of decayed burgesses. When the funds of this trust became available, in 1834, two new wings were added to the Hospital, which cost £14,000; and since that time 40 boys have been maintained on this foundation at an average cost of £26 16s. 9d. The revenue from the Collyhill Trust being £1,316 16s od.

On the front of the central part of the Hospital there is a niche which contains a white marble statue of the founder, with a female figure suckling an infant, and two naked children at her feet. In the large hall of the Hospital, which is on the second floor, there is a full-length portrait of the founder, with a small scroll in his hand; and in the public school an original quarter-length portrait. In the charter room of the institution there is a very good collection of ancient British coins, which belonged to the founder.

Under the Provisional Order, which was obtained in

1880-81, the name of the institution has been changed to Robert Gordon's College.

*Royal Infirmary* was instituted in the year 1739, under the patronage of the Magistrates and Council and some nominated managers, for the relief of the sick poor. In 1740, the foundation of the old building was laid, and the principal part was opened for the reception of patients in 1742 ; but in 1746, the patients were displaced, and the hospital filled with the sick and wounded soldiers of the Duke of Cumberland's army. Soon after this interruption, and as the institution was entirely dependent for support on annual contributions, and as the number of applicants for relief gradually increased, the objects of the institution became more generally known and appreciated. Funds for the year ending 1880 amounted to about £5,000, and were provided by donations, legacies, and annual subscriptions, and from part of the lands of Towie in Auchterless, and Kinaldy in Old Deer.

*Lunatic Asylum.*—The Lunatic Asylum is connected with the Royal Infirmary in so far as it is under the same body of managers, viz., the Magistrates and Council. Previous to 1799, all the accommodation provided for this unfortunate class in Aberdeen was some cells in the Infirmary and in the poors' hospital, but in that year a building was erected at Barkmill capable of holding 50 patients. This building cost £3,480, but the increasing number of applicants for admission compelled the Magistrates to purchase other three acres of land adjoining the Barkmill building, on which was erected additional buildings, costing £13,135—the greater part of the cost being defrayed by the munificent gift of

£10,000 by the late John Forbes, Esq. of Newe. Latterly the managers purchased the adjoining lands of Clerkseat and Elmhill, on which they spent about £10,000—on the Elmhill Asylum, and in laying out the grounds for recreation and for employing such of the inmates of the Hospital as are capable and willing to perform such out of door work.





## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE INCORPORATED TRADES.



THE Trades Incorporation of the city of Aberdeen are of considerable antiquity, and were at one time protected by certain statutes under which they enjoyed various privileges in the different crafts to which they belonged. The earliest Trades crafts of which information can be obtained, enumerate the Litsters, the Hammermen, the Tailors, the Skinners, the Cordwainers, the Barbers, the Wrights and Coopers, and the Bakers ; but it is uncertain at what period they were formed into a joint Society. In 1587, the deacon-convener was appointed, along with others, to arbitrate between the Trades and Burgesses ; and in 1610 the joint Incorporated Trades, which now consist of the Hammermen, the Bakers, the Wrights and Coopers, the Tailors, the Shoemakers, the Weavers, and the Fleshers, instituted a fund for the relief of decayed members.

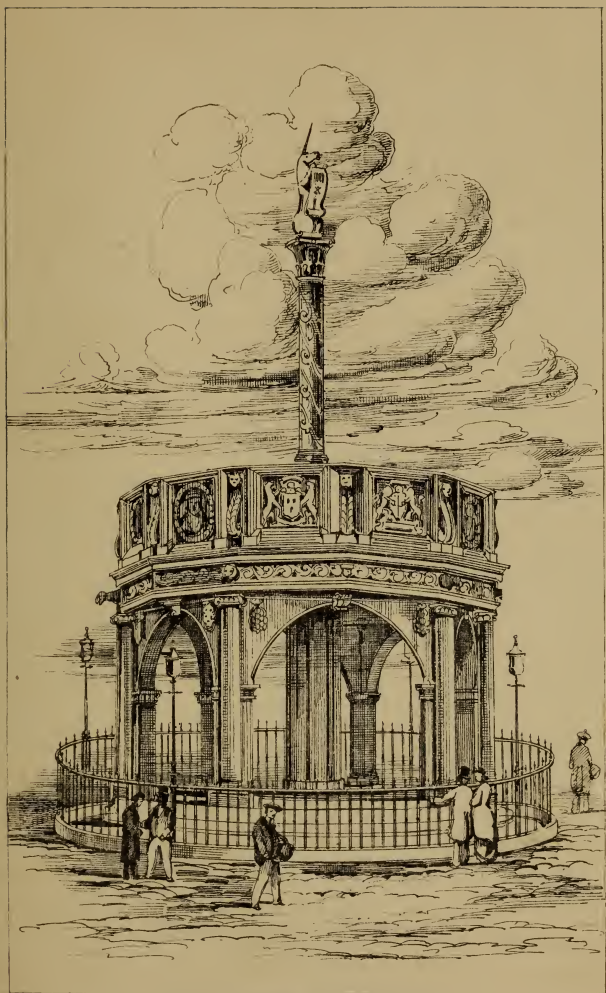
In 1632, Dr. Guild, one of the ministers of the city, and patron of the Trades, founded an hospital for artificers, in a building formerly occupied by the monks

of the Holy Trinity, and by his will, dated 1655, he left "to the master of hospital, deacon-convener of the crafts of Aberdeen, &c., the sum of 5000 merks scots money" . . . "for the entertaining of three poor boys, who are craftsmen's sons, as bursars in the New College of Aberdeen, and who are of good engynes". In 1771, a widow's fund was instituted, a small sum for its support being reserved from the payment of entrant members; and in 1816, a supplementary fund was projected, and soon afterwards became available. In subsequent years the general funds of the Trades have been annually, and liberally distributed among decayed members, widows, and bursars at College, and, besides these general funds, each Trade has its own and peculiar stock and property, the revenue from which being appropriated to the relief of indigent or superannuated members, widows, and orphans, connected with the craft.

The old Trinity Hall, in order to make room for the Market Street improvements, which were carried out in 1841-2, was removed from the west end of the Shiprow to Union Street in 1845, and a new Trades' Hall built at the south east corner of Union Bridge. The old gateway of the hall was preserved, and placed in the school entrance of the new building in the Denburn side of the Green.

On the scroll at the top of this gateway—is the motto SOLI DEO GLORIE, and on the base of the scroll, 1632. Underneath are two nude figures holding a scroll on which there is engraved :—

TO . Y . GLORIE . OF . GOD . AND . COMFORT



Gibb & Hay, Lithographers to Her Majesty: Aberdeen.

MARKET CROSS.





OF . Y . POOR . THIS . HOWS . WAS . GIWEN  
TO . Y . CRAFTS, . BY . MR. . WILLIM . GVILD,  
DOCTOVR . OF . DIVINITIE . OF . ABD. . 1633.

The panel on the left side contains the arms of Dr. Guild, with the letter D. above the shield, and on one side the letter W., and on the other the letter G., and underneath FVNDATOR. The panel on the right hand contains the following inscription—HE . THAT  
PITIETH . THE . POOR . LENDETH . TO . THE  
LORD . AND . THAT . WHICH . HE . HATH  
GIVEN . WILL . HE . REPAY. , PRO. . 10-17.

At the top of the centre panel there is :—

FVNDAVIT . GVIELE . R . SCOTT. , 1131.

and at the corners under two crowns, the letters G. R. with a shield, and the Royal Arms of Scotland, also surmounted by a crown.

*The Cross.*—Near to the east end of Castle Street stands the Cross, which was first erected in 1686, on the site of the two “mercat croces,” *i.e.*, “the high croce befor the tolbooth called the flesh crosse, and the lesser croce called the fish crosse”.

It was built by John Montgomery, mason, Old Rayne, conform to a model made of timber and paste-board, for the sum of £100 stg., the town paying for the stones and carriages. The building is hexagonal, of Grecian architecture, and measures 21 feet across the angles. The walls are about 18 feet high to the top of the balustrade or parapet on which “the present, and eight kings, and Queen Mary’s effigies (are) engraven upon ashlar stone,” with the arms of Scotland and of the city on the west face. In the centre of the building rises a

column with a Corinthian capital  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, ornamented with a wreath of thistles, and surmounted by a unicorn, having on its breast a shield, with a lion rampant.

Previous to the removal of the cross from its original site opposite the tolbooth on the plainstones, the arches around the structure were enclosed, and, in 1822, the four small apartments which the building contained, were thrown into one, and then it was used for a short time as *the post office*. In 1842, it was removed to its present site where it stands within a circular railing with the arches opened up in all its pristine beauty, an object of much architectural interest.

Among the other objects of antiquity may be fairly ranked the Weigh-house, which stands nearly gable on to the west side of the Square that derives its name from it. Baillie Skene describes it as "a large and high House called the Pack-house and Weigh-house, wherein are a great many rooms for merchant wares of all sorts near to the shore". It is a roughly built, long, narrow, high-roofed house, the ground floor of which is now used as stores for various commodities, and the upper as sailmakers' and joiners' shops. It was built in 1634, and served sometime as a Custom-house for the port, and at that time it was near the termination of the Quay or Pier-head, on which stood the "Cran," to which was attached a *Rams-horn*, on which certain culprits were placed, and then ducked in the water; and in an adjacent pool, known at a comparatively recent period as the *Pottie*, death was inflicted by drowning, especially on females.

In the Green there is a house No. 74, 76, near the

bottom of the Back Wynd stairs, which presents a rather ancient appearance. The three attic windows are surmounted by triangular sandstone slabs, bearing coats of arms ; but in recently undergoing repairs, the stones with the exception of the one above the middle window, which bears the date 1633, had their ornaments dressed off. This house is traditionally connected with *kidnapping traffic*, which disgraced the city; and one of the Baillies and the Town Clerk, about the middle of the last century.

In Broad Street, we find the house No. 64 had once been occupied by Lady Byron, and her distinguished son when a boy. In the Gallowgate there is the auld castle, which bears date 1494. It has been called Mar's Castle, and associated with Cochrane, but his death took place before the date which is upon the building. It is also said that it was "Christ's palace," in which Samuel Rutherford was confined when, in 1636, he resided in Aberdeen ; but it does not appear that he was absolutely confined to any house or prison, for he speaks of the "honest man's house" in which he lodged ; of the people pointing to him as "the banished minister" as he passed along the streets, and of opposing the Arminianism of Dr. Barron, whom he "laid by after three yokings ;" but, best of all, although inhibited to preach, he had opportunities privately of sowing the seeds of evangelical truth, and the satisfaction of seeing it "brairding" before he left the city, in proof of the short-sightedness of persecution.

Near the south-west corner of Castle Street there still stands the house of Dr. Guild, which he bequeathed to

Marischal College for the support of certain Bursars. In the Netherkirkgate, and at the top of one of its courts, there is the house in which Dr. Beattie, "the minstrel," lived ; and from the library window may be seen the garden in which he traced in cresses the initials of his son's name, and thence taught him to reason from design to a designer. In the lower end of the same street, there is an effigy of a mailed warrior and a dog at his feet, which has long been regarded as representing Sir William Wallace, and has given that quarter the name of "Wallace Nook".

In the Schoolhill, No. 20, may be seen a picturesque building, ornamented with those graceful angle turrets that were adapted from the *French chateau*. From the vicinity of this building to St. Nicholas Church perhaps, it has been regarded as the manse of the parish, while with equally good reason, it has been considered part of the monastery of the Black Friars. It is also reported to have been the house of Jameson the painter, and a bedroom in one of the turrets is still pointed out as having been occupied by Samuel Rutherford.

On the declivity known as the Steps of Gilcomston, or Skene Square, and nearly in the centre of what was the play-ground attached to the Boys' Industrial School, there is a large boulder known as one of the *Stones of Gilcom*—the only one now remaining.\* It is a huge mass of close-grained grey granite, standing about eight feet above the surface, being about three and a half feet broad and two feet thick, but the outline is rather irregular. On the north side of the Windmill Brae, and

\* It is now destroyed, 1882.



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SCHOOLHILL.





where that street is crossed by Dee Street, a rough stone about five feet long may be seen leaning to the houses, and from which the neighbourhood has derived the name of "Langstane Place". A little farther on, and on the south side of the Hardgate, near to where that street is crossed by Bon-Accord Terrace, there has been set up on the edge of the street what appears to be only a fragment of the "Crab-stone," although Gordon calls it "ane considerable stone," to which reference has already been made.

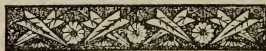
On the left hand side of the road leading to the Barracks, there is a rough square stone built into the new wall with the letters G B carved on it, and the date 1675 underneath; and in the west wall enclosing the new building, there is an angular shaped block of red-sand-stone, also built into the new wall, which appears to have had a good many hieroglyphical figures carved on it; but except the crescent with the date 1670, and the letter D above the 70, the other devices are unintelligible. We have no history of these stones.

*Statues.*—Near the centre of Castle Street, stands the colossal statue of George, Fifth and last Duke of Gordon, cut from a solid block of Aberdeen granite, and standing on a pedestal of Peterhead granite. It was put where it now stands in 1836.

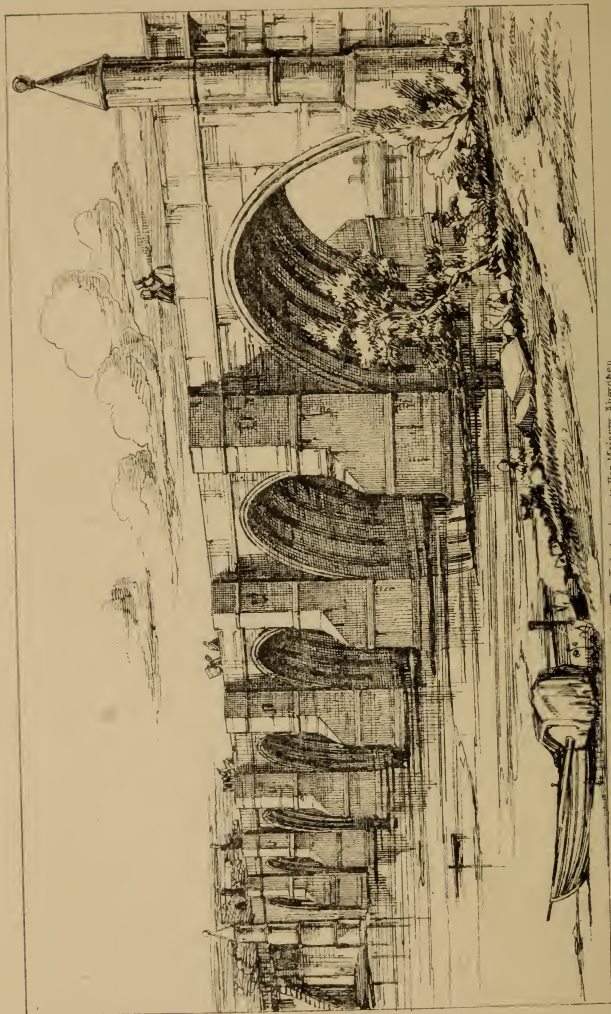
A colossal statue of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria I., in white marble, stands on a pedestal of polished Peterhead granite at the corner of St. Nicholas Street and Union Street. It was erected in 1866 by public subscription, and is of fine proportions, beautifully draped, and from the chisel of a townsman, Mr. Alexander

Brodie, a sculptor almost wholly unknown to fame, who died soon after the statue was erected.

A life size statue of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, stands near the north-west end of Union Bridge and corner of Union Terrace. It was erected in 1865, by public subscription, under the auspices of Provost Alexander Anderson, who received the honour of Knighthood on the occasion of Her Majesty unveiling the statue. The statue is cast in bronze, from a model by Baron Marrochetti, and it is placed on a pedestal of polished Peterhead granite. The artist has succeeded in bringing out a striking facial likeness of the late Prince, and of burying his body (which is seated in a high-backed chair) in heavy military drapery, and very prominent jack boots.







Gabb & Hay, Lithographers to Her Majesty, Aberdeen

## BRIDGE OF DEE.



## CHAPTER XX.

### THE BRIDGE OF DEE.



HIS bridge was founded about the year 1500 by Bishop William Elphinstone, who died in 1514, before it was completed. Bishop Gordon, his successor, did nothing to complete it; but on his death in 1518, his successor, Bishop Gavin Dunbar, set the work agoing and finished the bridge in 1527. Thus, then, at last, was this munificent ecclesiastical undertaking finished, with the means left by its founder, and the untiring exertions of Bishop Gavin Dunbar.

Two years after the bridge was built, Bishop Dunbar intimated to the Provost and Council, that he was to give the "lands of Ardlair" for upholding the bridge, it "being now founded, bigged, and ended". In the year 1529, or about that time, the Town Council granted a bond to the Bishop, sealed with the common seal of the burgh, undertaking to "uphold the bridge, and, if need be, to rebuild it from the money and profits of Ardlair, which are to be applied to that purpose, and no other use"; and, if possible to strengthen that bond still more, "the Provost and Baillies and Council sware in judge-



ment the great bodily oath, touching the crucifix, to apply same accordingly ”.

There is, we believe, no record of the expense of building this bridge, which consists of seven semi-circular ribbed arches, each being about 50 feet span. Originally the width of the bridge was only  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet over the parapets, and built of Morayshire freestone, with a chapel at a little distance from the north end of it, called the “Lady’s Chapel of the Bridge,” and an elegant porch at the south end, built of the same description of dressed stone.

On the piers and both faces of the bridge, the arms of Bishop Elphinstone appears twice, and those of Bishop Dunbar eight times, with two Latin inscriptions in black letter, one of them bearing date 1520, and the other 1525.

About the year 1592, the lands of *Ardlair* were disposed of to John Leslie, of Balquhain, for the sum of 4000 merks (£222 3s. 4d.), and, in 1610, the lands of Cuparstone were purchased and mortified in lieu of Ardlair, for the support of the fabric. About this time, however, the bridge had fallen into decay, so much so, according to Kennedy, “that early in the last century, it became necessary to build the greater part of it, particularly the arches and superstructure”. But little appears to have been done in repairing the bridge till 1718-19 and 21, during which years the Council seems to have expended considerable sums of money in purchasing freestone from Elgin, and timber from the Duke of Gordon, for making centres for the arches, and for building boats for dropping stones into the river to

support the piers, to preserve them from the effects of currents. These repairs being made on the arches and superstructure of the bridge, and in protecting the piers, nothing further appears to have been done, or required, till 1773, when the Council ordered the porch at the south end of the bridge to be removed, and the approach at the north end to be widened, which at this time turned very abruptly east towards the city by the Hardgate road. About the year 1692, and on the Hardgate road a very neat small bridge of three arches was built over the burn of Ruthrieston. This bridge was built out of the Bridge of Dee fund, and is composed of neatly dressed granite, having on the middle pier the arms of Provost Cruickshank and those of the city carved on freestone ; but time and deplorable neglect have left this handsome piece of bridge architecture in a very dilapidated state.

In 1796, the Holburn Street and Union Place road was made out of the Commutation road funds of the district, but on the Magistrates failing to keep the road in proper repair it became turnpike, and a toll gate was put on near to the Bridge of Dee. The increase of traffic on this road became so great, that, in the year 1840, the Magistrates resolved on widening the bridge by adding  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet to its upper side, which was done at an expense of £7,250. This addition was made in strict conformity with original design of the structure, and with the same description of material, viz., Morayshire freestone ; but the parapet walls are too low to be either safe or symmetrical.

The revenue derived from the remains of Ardlair, now

amounts to £114 os. 11d., and the debt standing against the bridge in 1872, amounted to £1,963 12s. 5d. The funds belonging to the Bridge of Dee, were taxed for building the Auld Bow-bridge over the Denburn. In the Council's Registers, Vol. II., page 458, there is the following entry, "Ye haill toune being convenit wt in ye Tolbuith thot neidfull and expedient to big ane brig upon ye den-burne at ye sout wast entre to ye toune on thi wy ynto frae ye brig of Dee, and ordains master Robert Lumisden, master of work of the brig of Dee, to big ye said brig of *twa bowis* sufficientlie wt stone and lyme wt ye reddiest of ye money that he gets of the mailis of Ardlair". This order bears date 2nd Jannary, 1566; but at another "head court" held on the 7th October, 1586, "the hail toune consentit" that "another *bow-brig* be biggit and erectit," which was afterwards found to be too small, as, "after great rayne being in *spat* brak out aft, and diverse tymes wantand passage towards the eist". This bridge also did not stand long, as we find that in November, 1609, the magistrates entered into a contract with Andro Jamesone, mason, to build another bridge *hawand twa bowis*, which was to cost 250 merks. This bridge No. 3, also turned out to be too small for the *spat* which frequently swelled the Denburn, as we find, by an order or minute of Council of date 24th October, 1746, that the two arches should be removed, as there was not sufficient room in them to contain the water. "Many houses in the Green were rendered uninhabitable, besides a great loss to the public good of the burgh, and a great hindrance to the south post and other travellers." In the following year,

the Magistrates and Council had before them a petition from proprietors and tenants in the Green, praying them the necessity of building a new bridge, and, having plans before them, they selected that of John Jeans, mason, which they agreed to carry into execution. But as they had no funds for the purpose, it was ordered to be built at the expense of the Bridge of Dee fund. This bridge, No. 4, consisted of only one arch, and it was built of dressed granite, "with parapets and small tapering obelisks on the centre of the arch, and a loupin-on-stane at the west end for the accommodation of old men and women going to horse, which is a comely thing".

Gradually the once pure water running in the Denburn, became sadly polluted, and latterly the Commissioners of Police voted it a nuisance, and ordered the lower parts of its course, that is, from the Union-bridge to the harbour, to be covered over. In 1850, a committee of the Town Council ordered the Bow-bridg to be removed, which was done in 1851, the principal stones of the bridge having been stored away till they were used in building into the face of the retaining wall supporting Union Terrace and fronting the Terrace Gardens.

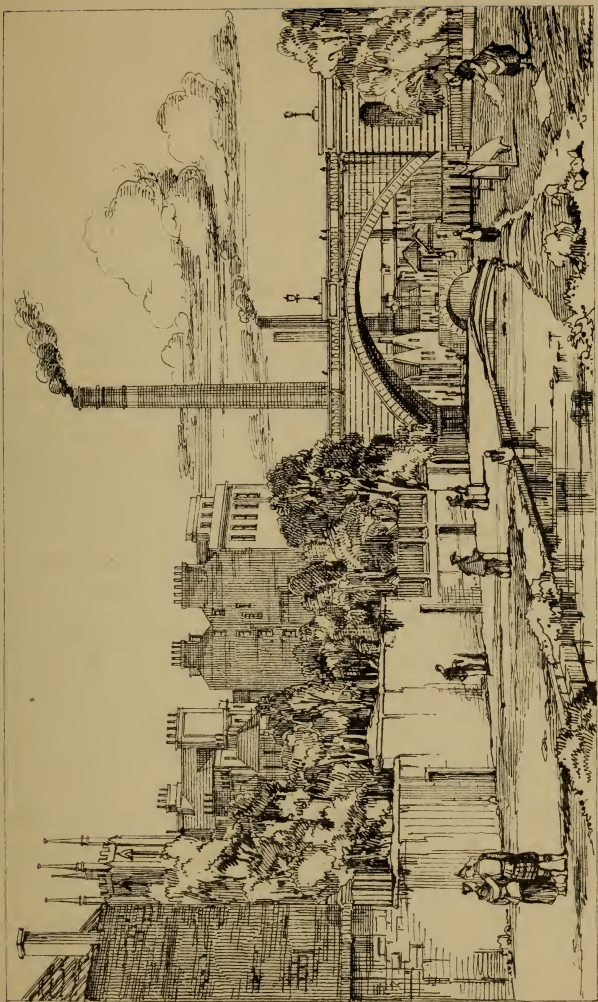
*Union Bridge.*—This bridge stands in the line of Union Street, and spans the Denburn Valley. It was built under an Act of Parliament obtained in 1800, and consists of one open arch of 132 feet span, considerably less than a semi-circle, with three blind arches—one on the west and two on the east. The top of the parapets stand about 52 feet above the level of the ground below,

and they stand upon a cornice, balustrade, and cope, with centre and abutment pediments.

The carriage-way of the bridge is only 21 feet in width, with foot ways on each side of 8 feet, and return wing walls at each end which widen out to 70 feet—being the whole width of Union Street. On the faces of the abutments of the main arch there are four tall circular recesses, which, along with the parapets, pediments, and ring of arch, are of closely pick-dressed masonry. The faces of the arch and wing walls are of that style of masonry known as bevel drafted and scabble-faced ; and the whole is built of native granite. The cost of building Union Bridge is said to have been between £12,000 and £13,000, and it was built from a design by Telford, which was selected from others after foundations had been laid for a bridge of three arches.

Union Bridge was opened for traffic in 1803 ; and on it, and on the bridge over the Correction Wynd and Puttachie-side, and in purchasing property for opening up Union Street, St. Nicholas Street, and King Street, the Corporation spent upwards of £100,000, which for a time paralyzed the city treasury ; but, although the cost of these improvements proved ruinous to the Corporation funds for a time, they tended to extend and improve the town, and have contributed much to improve the place and the prosperity of the inhabitants.





Gibb & Hay Lithographers to Her Majesty, Aberdeen.

## UNION BRIDGE.







## CHAPTER XXI.

### WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.



LONG the lower valley of the Denburn, there is the Corby-well and the Well of Spa, the Garden well, the Gilcomston springs, and St. John's well ; and higher up the valley there are the wells of Carden's howe, Fountainhall, and Morningfield. In point of discharge of water the Fountainhall and Gilcomston springs stand first, the others sending forth but small streams. The water in the Corby and St. John's well is made to run through small pipes, and both afford a cooling drink to the thirsty. The water issuing from the Gilcomston springs is chiefly used by the Gilcomston Brewery Company. The Well of Spa sends forth but a small quantity of water, which is now only slightly impregnated with carbonate of iron. In the year 1615, Dr. William Barclay published an account of this spring, under the title of "Callirhoe, or the Nymph of Aberdeen Resuscitat," and the building which then protected it was repaired or restored by the

celebrated painter George Jameson, but it was soon afterwards destroyed by a flood in the Denburn. The building which now protects the spring was erected in 1670, and consists of a half circle enclosure with benches and steps, and a neat entablature, bearing the following inscription and dates :—

“ As heaven gives me, so give I thee.”

“ *Hoc Fonte Derivata Salus in Patriam Populumque Fluat.*”

*Spada Rediviva* 1670.

*Renovatum est Opus Anno* 1851.

*Water Supply.*—About the year 1776, a cistern was erected in a house at the top of Broad Street capable of storing 30,000 gallons of water, which was obtained chiefly from the springs at Fountainhall before mentioned, from which, and along with other springs in the valley of the Denburn, a water supply was obtained equal to about 130 gallons per minute, or 187,200 galls. per diem ; but in dry seasons, and on many occasions this quantity fell short of being sufficient to supply the demands of a population which had increased from about 12,000 in 1760 to 33,000 in 1831. In the year 1830, the Commissioners of Police for the city resolved on procuring an additional supply of water from the Dee, and by the advice and under the direction of Mr. James Jardine, C.E., Edinburgh, they erected a pump-house near the north end of the Bridge of Dee for pumping up the water to the city. The point from which the water was abstracted from the Dee through filter beds and a tunnel to the engine-house was nearly half a mile higher up the river, and nearly that distance

above high tide mark. The two engines which were fitted up in the engine-house were capable of working to 50 horse-power, and of forcing the water through a 15 inch diameter pipe to the Union Place reservoir, which stood about 130 feet above the engines and 40 feet above the level of the street.

The Union Place cistern was 50 feet by 30, and 9 feet deep, and contained about 84,000 gallons of water ; and the engines, taxed to their utmost power, were only capable of raising 1,000,000 gallons daily for a population of about 55,000.

For several years previous to 1864 the inhabitants suffered severely from the want of a sufficient supply of water, and in 1862 the Commissioners of Police resolved to abandon their pumping system from the Dee, and to procure another supply by gravitation ; and for that purpose they obtained parliamentary powers to abstract from the Dee at Cairnton (which is 23 miles from the sea, and 224 feet above its level) 2,500,000 gallons of water daily, with power to abstract 5,000,000 gallons daily when necessary.

At Invercanny, which is about a mile below the Cairnton Intake, there is a Reservoir, with filter beds and regulating sluices, through which all the water is made to pass before it enters the main aqueduct, and at Brae of Pitfodels, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Union Place, and 162 feet above sea level, there is another storage reservoir which is capable of storing 6,000,000 gallons—a little more than two days' supply for eight-tenths of the population of the burgh. At the Den of Cults, which is about three miles from Union Place,

and 190 feet above sea level, there is a bye-service for a hydraulic ram or engine, for forcing up water to the higher parts of the town, not supplied by gravitation from the main service. The Cults hydraulic station is placed about 120 feet below the level of the aqueduct, and the high service reservoir on Hillhead is about 210 feet above it.

The main aqueduct from Brae of Pitfodels to the Invercanny reservoir is about 18 miles in length, and has a rise on it of about 2 feet per mile. It chiefly consists of an egg-shaped brick culvert, with cast-iron piping 36 inches diameter, laid across several streams. Between the Invercanny reservoir and the Cairnton intake, there is a tunnel of about three fourths of a mile in length, which had to be cut through whinstone and porphyritic rock of unusual hardness; and on other parts there was a good deal of half tunnel work through gravel and boulder rock, and several pretty long embankments in crossing valleys and streams.

Up to the close of the financial year ending 30th September, 1872, these works cost altogether, £161,523 15s. 5½d. and the gross revenue amounted to £14,831 11s. 2d., the expenditure for the year being £14,098 os. 10d., leaving a balance of £798 10s. 4d.

*Sewerage.*—The facilities for the efficient sewerage of the City of Aberdeen are very great; but the sewers have been so laid as to make the sewerage a very complicated affair. Instead of the main sewers being laid in a position to take advantage of the natural offlets, they have been laid out in *zones*, almost on dead level intercepting sewers, with reversible outfalls. Recently

it was given forth by a high official, that the highest main sewer is laid about 57 feet above sea level, and that it would drain a district containing 30,000 inhabitants. The second main sewer is laid at a height of 41 feet above sea level, and it would drain a district containing 28,000 inhabitants. The third main sewer is laid about the level of H.W.M., and will intercept the sewage of about 32,000 inhabitants. The fourth or lowest level sewer will intercept the sewage of about 7000 inhabitants, which has to be pumped up and discharged at Abercromby's Jetty in the navigation channel of the Dee, along with all the other sewers.

Without doubt the first of all sanitary improvements which ought to be carried out in every town and populous place, is that of introducing a plentiful supply of pure water to the inhabitants, even though some of those who ought to consume it should prefer less innocent liquids. The next is that of wash-houses and baths, and it may happen, after these have been provided, that the people wont use them. Then, the atmosphere may be purified of smoke and other artificially gendered vapours; but it often happens that people will not let pure air into their houses. But the sewerage of a town, and the necessary arrangements connected with the regulation and disposal of sewage, belong to those whose duty it is to see the sanitary laws of the country carried into effect, and not allow any one to suffer from the deadly effects arising out of cesspool drainage, ill-ventilated sewers, and untrapped house drains, the works of men who ought to know that about nine-tenths of our epidemical calamities which have



arisen among the inhabitants of large towns, have originated in defective, or what may be properly called *cesspool sewers*, such as we have.





## CHAPTER XXII.

### COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.



FOR many years the accommodation for Court-house purposes was found to be very defective. It became therefore necessary to provide accommodation, and, in 1861, it was resolved to erect a new Court-house. Designs for the new building were obtained; in competition, from three architects; but before the building of a Court-house was begun, it was proposed, as there were no proper County and Municipal Buildings in Aberdeen, to take advantage of the opportunity which the building of a Court-house afforded for the erecting of County and Municipal Buildings at the same time; and a joint scheme was matured, whereby it was proposed to erect one large building combining Court-house, County and Municipal accommodation.

A site was selected for the combined buildings at the east end of Union Street and in Castle Street, having a frontage to these streets and to Broad Street. The back of the building abutting on the prisons, which have their entry from Lodge Walk, and looking to the

Advocates' new building and on some inferior property approached from Broad Street. The site comprehends the space formerly occupied by the old Court-house, the Town-house, and other property along Union Street, to Broad Street, the Huxter Row, and the site of the old Lemon Tree Hotel. Plans were obtained from Messrs. Peddie and Kinnear, architects, Edinburgh, the successful competitors under the first Court-house scheme. The building was completed at a cost of about £50,000, exclusive of the cost of the site, and is one of the finest buildings of which Aberdeen can boast.

The elevations to Union Street and Broad Street are four storeys in height, while the central back portion is only two storeys high. The style adopted is a variety of the Scottish architecture of the sixteenth century. The front elevations show on the ground floor, an arcade having massive columns at intervals of about 12 feet, supporting elliptical arches, and immediately above this is a mezzanine floor having small columns with moulded bases and capitals flanking the windows. The third and fourth storey windows are square and segmental headed, all deeply splayed.

The great hall occupies the centre of the upper portion of the building, and the windows of it, five in number, form a very prominent part in the elevation to Union Street. They are carried through two stories in height, divided by mullions, and have their heads filled with simple Gothic tracery. The building is surmounted by a bold cornice, with parapet, and the high pitched roof is studded with dormer windows, and finished on the ridge with an iron cresting. The material used in the

erection of the building is that of grey granite from the Kemnay quarries, about 15 miles from the city.

Originally it was not intended to interfere with the old tower at Lodge Walk, on the east end of the building, which was faced up about the beginning of this century in the style of Gothic then in vogue ; but, for the harmony of the building, it was found desirable in the course of the operations to rebuild this tower, which has been so successfully accomplished that it might be supposed to form part of the original design. This tower is still surmounted by its old wooden spire, which now appears to be the only incongruity about the building, as it rises to a height of only 130 feet. Whereas the great tower on the corner of Broad Street, which is the principal feature of the building, rises to a height of 200 feet. The entrance to the municipal portion of the building is through this latter tower, which has an illuminated clock showing time on four faces, and with a peal of bells. The frontage to Castle Street and Union Street is 225 feet, and to Broad Street, 109 feet ; and the height to the parapet, 64 feet.

*Post Office.*—The Post Office which was built about ten years ago, occupies a square block of ground formerly the Fish Market, and has frontages to Trinity Quay, Market Street, and Shiprow, the principal entrances being in Market Street, and in the Shiprow for letter carriers, &c. It is a plain substantial granite building of two storeys in height. The cost of the building, including the price paid for the site, is said to have been £15,000.

*The New Market Building.*—This building was erected

(and opened in 1842) by a Joint Stock Company, who purchased a large number of worthless houses and other property between Union Street and Trinity Quay, and between Puttachie-side and the Green, on which they erected the Market building, and constructed Market Street, Hadden Street, and other streets between the latter street and Guild Street. The Market building stands parallel with Union Street, and is 300 feet in length by 110 feet in width, with a circular end to the Green. The building consists of a basement floor, and the chief entries to it are from the Green and Hadden Street. The principal market floor is nearly on a level with Market Street, and the chief entrance to it is from that street, with a covered entrance for foot passengers through the Union Street houses near the Green end. Galleries for the sale of small wares are carried all round the building, and these are approached by stairs right and left of the Market Street entrance. The Green end of the basement floor is chiefly occupied as the Fish market, while a row of shops has been opened up to Hadden Street, which does not seem to have been part of the original design. The whole of the central space on the principal floor is occupied by fruit and vegetable stalls, and the side stalls under the galleries, which are supported by heavy square stone built pillars, supporting an open timber roof, are occupied as butchers' stalls for the sale of killed meat. In the centre and west end of the principal floor there is a very fine flight of granite steps leading down to the fish market, and at the top of this stair there is a very handsome circular fountain of polished Peterhead granite.

*Theatre and Opera House.*—The old Theatre was situated on the west side of Marischal Street, and in its day was called an “elegant building”. It is now converted into the Trinity Church, *quoad sacra*.

The new Theatre and Opera-House stands on the north side of Guild Street, a little west of Stirling Street. It is built in the gothic style of architecture, and belongs to a Joint Stock Company (Limited) with a capital of £7,000; and was opened for the first time in December, 1872.

*Joint Railway Station.*—This Railway Station stands on the line of the Denburn Railway, and on the south side of the Guild Street Bridge. It is over 500 feet in length and 100 feet in breadth, with very high side walls, surmounted by a semi-circular iron girder roof, overtopped by a flattish ventilator, which runs the whole length of the building. The Station-house, on the east side, is flanked by a row of diminutive-looking buildings which are used or occupied as offices, gateways, booking and luggage-rooms, waiting and refreshment rooms.

*Assembly Rooms*, now the Music Hall.—The foundation stone of the Assembly rooms was laid by James, late Earl of Fife, on the 26th April, 1820. The building contains a noble suite of apartments, consisting of—dining, supper, and ball-rooms, billiard and cloak rooms, with keeper’s apartments. The building is a little retired off the line of Union Street, and the principal entrance is by a flight of steps under a portico with seven handsome Ionic pillars of dressed granite. This splendid edifice cost £11,500, which was raised by subscription, but the speculation did not pay, and in 1858 it was sold



to the Music Hall Company (Limited), who added the Music Hall to the Golden Square side of the building, and opened up an entrance to it from Silver Street. The Music Hall was inaugurated by His Royal Highness, Prince Albert, on the 14th September, 1859, when His Royal Highness delivered an opening address to the members of the British Association on the occasion of the first visit of the association to Aberdeen.

*The Barracks.*—The Infantry Barracks, situated on the Castle Hill, was built in 1796, and are capable of accommodating 500 men. It is a plain oblong three-storeyed building with two end wings, with an hospital on the Heading-hill entirely separate from the Barrack building. In 1881, a new building, betwixt the old building and the back of the Castle Street houses, was opened for the accommodation of the married soldiers. It consists of a main block  $94\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, with two wings fronting south and north, each  $61\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and extend beyond the east elevation considerably and about 10 feet beyond the west. The building on the south and west elevation contains three storeys, but the north elevation fronting Justice Street contains four storeys. The total cost of the building is said to be £11,000.

*Militia Barracks.*—The Militia Barracks are situated in King Street at Love Lane, and is a large quadrilateral building, partaking somewhat of the Scottish Baronial style of architecture, and the principal entrance is through an archway from King Street. The building was erected at the expense of the County, and contains the usual accommodation for quartering the Royal

Regiment of Aberdeenshire Highlanders, which usually musters about 800 men.

*Volunteers.*—The head-quarters of the Aberdeen Rifle Volunteers are in a building situated between Blackfriars Street, and the Woolmanhill, wherein they have their Drill-hall, with balcony for their band and keeper's apartments. The Artillery Volunteers have their Drill-hall in the old poultry market, off Queen Street. The recently formed Engineer Volunteers also meet in the same place.

The *Aberdeenshire Constabulary Force* have their head-quarters in the Lodge Walk, opposite the Prison buildings.

The Officers of Inland Revenue, and the Assessors for the City and County, and the Collector of Imperial Taxes and for distribution of stamps, have their offices in King Street, in the building latterly occupied as the Record Office.





## CHAPTER XXIII.

### THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF OLD ABERDEEN.



ABOUT the middle of the sixth century, Columba, the Abbot of Iona, "that illustrious island which was once the luminary of the Caledonian regions whence savage clans and roving barbarians derived the knowledge and the blessings of religion," frequently visited the mainland, and his followers penetrated into the remotest parts of Scotland. Among these early missionaries was Machar, who was told to go onward till he should find a river whose windings should resemble the figure of a Bishop's crozier, and there he should build a church. Having reached the Don they saw the sign indicated, and there they built a church, which was dedicated to St. Machar, and became the Cathedral of Old Aberdeen in the time of David I. A glance at the map in Gordon's *Descriptio* will show that no great effort of imagination was required to observe the symbol that arrested the saint.

Old Aberdeen was of old called *Aberdon*, which is its proper name, and so it is usually spelled in the old charters of the Bishops in the Chartulary of Aberdeen, that word signifying that its situation is near the mouth of the Don.

“It was erected into a City (or Bishop’s See) by the charter of David, as is described by that granted by King James VI., in the Chartulary of Aberdeen.

“The City may be divided into three parts:—The Chanonry at the north end; the Town in the middle; and the University at the south end; besides the two suburbs, one at the north end, called the Seaton, and another at the south end called the Spital.

“The arms are a pot of lilies (which by their whiteness are emblems of chastity), the town being under the patronage of the Virgin Mary.

“The City consists of one long street, which, at the Cross, divides into two, which are joined together by another which runs parallel with the Cathedral, the Bishop’s Palace, and Chaplain’s Court.

“The Chanonry (which formerly had four ports, but now only two) comprehends the Cathedral; the Bishop’s Palace, now razed; Bishop Dunbar’s Hospital; the houses of the Canons; and the Chaplain’s Court.

“The town, which descends from the Chanonry to the University, comprehends the Cross, Tolbooth, and several houses which, before the Reformation, seem to have belonged to *mechanicks* who served the Chanonry and University.”

The University, commonly called the *College-bounds*, comprehends the King’s College, and the Manses of the

Professors of Medicine, Canon Law, Civil Law ; the Lodge of Powis, with some small tenements interspersed.

Old Aberdeen is a Burgh of Barony and Regality, governed by a Provost, four Baillies, eight Merchant Councillors and five Trades' Councillors, a Treasurer, Procurator-Fiscal, Town-Clerk and Cashier. There are six Trades' Incorporations, viz., the Hammermen, the Wrights and Coopers, the Weavers, the Tailors, the Bakers and Brewers, and the Fleshers and Fishers.

Bishop Dunbar's Hospital, founded in 1531 for the maintenance of twelve poor men, where they may say their prayers and count their beads without molestation. The merchant society, established in 1680, are all merchant-burgesses of Old Aberdeen, and are possessed of some heritable property. Mitchell's Hospital was established in 1801, for lodging, clothing, and maintaining five widows and five unmarried daughters of burgesses of Old Aberdeen.









Gabb & Hay, Lithographers to Her Majesty, Aberdeen.

## ST MACHAR CATHEDRAL.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### CATHEDRAL OR PARISH CHURCH OF OLD MACHAR.



ACCORDING to Boethius, St. Machar lived towards the end of the 10th century, and was called the Bishop of Aberdeen by several authors, such as Archdeacon Ballengdean, Camerarius, and others. The tradition is that he built a chapel where the present Cathedral now stands.

“ It is also said that the isle in this Cathedral or chapel, which is now called Bishop Scougal’s, and formerly Bishop Cheyne’s, was first called St. Machar’s isle, as if he had been buried there as well as the other two. And ’tis said he resided in the north of Scotland, at a place where a river falls into the sea in the form of a crozier, as, indeed, the Don doth below the Cathedral here.

“ Besides the old church, which was used here by the two first bishops, of which we can give no account, there has been three Cathedrals here successively, all built by different Bishops, and dedicated to the memory of *Saint Macar*.

“I. The first was begun by Bishop Matthew Kinninmond, which, because it was not glorious enough, Bishop Cheyne threw down.

“II. The second was begun by the same Bishop Cheyne, but Bishop Alexander Kinninmond II. for the like reason threw it down.

“III. The third Cathedral, which is the present, was begun by the same Bishop Alexander Kinninmond II., and though far the noblest of all, two hundred years a-building, yet it stood not quite twenty years ; for the rabble at the Reformation did so disfigure it that its original grandeur is long since lost. However, in as far as it can now be traced, we shall endeavour to describe it in a few sentences.

“This Cathedral then consisted of a nave and choir, two wings at the *east* and two at the *west* end, and three steeples. It had also thirty-two windows, whereof eight were called *storm* windows.

“The *nave*, or body of the church, is 64 feet wide and 135 feet long, and stands on twenty pillars, ten on each side. Its ceiling, which is very curious and of the finest oak, is painted over with three *coats of arms*, running down from one end to the other, that is, from east to west. In the middle row are those of the Pope, the Bishop of Scotland, and the Prior of St. Andrews. In the row on the right hand are those of the Emperor . . . with those of other foreign Kings and Princes. And in that on the left hand are the arms of the Kings of Scotland, with those of the chief Scottish nobility. Further, on the north border of the ceiling, is figured the succession of the Bishops of Aberdeen ; and on the south

border, that of the Scottish Kings beginning with King Malcolm II.

“The pulpit here was built by Bishop Stuart, who dyed April, 1565.

“This nave was begun by Bishop Alexander Kinninmond II., about A.D. M.CCC.LXX. ; roofed and paved by Bishop Lindsay, A.D. M.CCC.XLX. ; leaded over by the Bishops Elphinstone and Dunbar, and ceiled by the last. It was saved from utter ruin by (George) Earl of Huntly, A.D. M.D.LX., when the Mernis rabble took the lead from the roof. And, last of all, it was slated by the parish A.D. M.D.C.VII.

“It has three doors ; the west door formerly used for processions ; the south, now called the *marriage* door, because such as are going to be married enter in at it ; and the north door, which, being unsuitable for the grandeur of the nave, was but going to be new built when the rabble destroyed it.

“The choir (which is now in rubbish) was beautified by Bishop Spence about A.D. M.CCCC.IX., with a chair (or throne) for the Bishop, and new stalls for the priests ; but was demolished barbarously, A.D. M.DLX., by the Mernis rabble above named.

“The two wings on the east end are two isles.

“The north isle, or St. John’s Chappel, built by Bishop Leighton about A.D. M.CCCC.XXX., for his burial place ; but broken down by the above-named rabble, wherein the Bishop’s statue is seen lying on his tomb. ’Tis now called the Gordon’s Isle, because bought about A.D. M.DC.XXX., by the Marquess of Huntly, for a burial

to his family. In the *Reg. Chartarum*, it is called St. Catharine's Chappel, from its altar.

"And the south isle, built by Bishop Dunbar, about A.D. MD.XXII., for his burying place, though both it, and his tomb, and his marble statue, are now broken down. This is commonly called the *Light Isle*, as the other, the *Dark Isle*; because, with respect to one another, they are so indeed. A.D. MD.CC.XXV. It was broken down to build the south side of the (King's) College.

"The two wings on the west end, are the consistory and Scougal's Isle.

"The consistory (on the north side) was built by Bishop Stewart, A.D. MD.XXXIX., and had a secret room adjoining to it (under the northern lesser steeple), called the charter house.

"As to Scougal's Isle, its age is unknown; it was at first called St. Macar's, and afterwards Bishop Cheyne's Isle. Its present name is from Bishop Scougal, who lyes there buried, having his image in marble on the tomb.

"Of the three steeples, the middle one was by far the greatest, rising on four pillars between the nave and the choir. It was four storey high, and square, and had two battlements, and seems to have been about one hundred and fifty feet high; was noted as a landmark off at sea, and had fourteen bells all gifted to it by Bishop Elphinston, which were carried away A.D. MD.LX., by the rabble so often before named. It was founded by Bishop Leighton, about A.D. M.CCCC.XXX., completed by Bishop Elphinston, A.D. M.CCCC.LXXXIX.; but



being neglected by those who were employed to support it, it fell to the ground, Munday, the ninth of May, A.D. M.DC.LXXXIX.

“The two lesser steeples on the west end are round and pyramidal, and each of them one hundred and twelve foot high. That to the south has a clock in it, and three bells (their dates are M.DC.XXII.; but this bell, which is the biggest, is burst and disused; M.DC.LXXXVII.; and M.DC.XVIII.); and in that to the north, it is supposed the vestry of old was.

“This Cathedral had the privilege of a sanctuary, or girth, and had a Girth-Cross on the Bishop’s dovecote-green, which was a sure refuge for manslayers, or such as had committed slaughter by pure accident and misfortune, without any malice or design.

“The Episcopal Palace of Aberdeen, stood at the east end of the choir of the Cathedral, and was a large and fair court, having a high tower at each of its four corners; an outer and inner gate; with a deep well in the middle of the court; and an iron gate by which the Bishop passed from his Palace into the choir; also a water-gate leading to the Don and the cow-butts.

“This court had a back close, where were the office-houses, dove-cote, etc., etc.

“The Orchard stood between the Bishop’s court and that of the chaplain’s. It remains to this day, and is very large, and had on the west wall a summer-house, three storey high, whence one had a prospect of the whole town.

“The Chaplain’s close, or court, was built by the executors of Bishop Dunbar (Mr. Alexander Galloway,



parson of Kinkell ; and Mr. Alexander Spittal, parson of Clatt) ; and had a tower on each corner, one on the east, for the bishop's chaplain ; one on the west, for Bishop Dunbar's own chaplain ; one on the north, for the parson of Kinkell's chaplain ; and one on the south, for the dean's chaplain. Besides these four towers, there were chambers of wood built around the court, having beneath them a hall, pantry, etc., and a great draw-well in the midst."

Among the many eminent men who held the office of Bishop of Aberdeen, we have only room to give the names of a few, viz. :—

"*Adam Kaid*, chaplain to King William (the 'Epistolare' calls him chancellor), was promoted rather by that Prince's authority than by the free election of the chapter. He attended the court as formerly, and to manage affairs of state ; but after King William's death, being invited home by his clergy, he endeavoured by his presence to restore discipline, and restore what loss the church had sustained by his absence. He dyed A.D. 1227."

"*Henry Cheyne* (third son to Francis, Lord Cheyne of Inverugie, by Isabel, daughter to John Cummin, Earl of Buchan), Privy Councillor to King Alexander III., pulled down the old Cathedral here, and began to build a new one, till he was interrupted in that work by the long war of Edward I., waged against Scotland. In the plea between Bruce and Balliol, for the crown, he is one of the arbitrators named by Balliol ; and in the same year he, with many others, swears to Edward I. of England, as superior Lord of Scotland. A.D. 1296 ; he

again swears by the same King Edward, as now claiming to be proprietor of Scotland, by the resignation of John Balliol ; and yet, about A.D. 1308, he (with other Bishops of Scotland) signs a declaration in favour of Robert I., declaring all oaths formerly mentioned to have been unjust and extorted. Yet after this he was banished by King Robert I. into England (but seems to have been restored again A.D. 1314, because in the *Registrum Chartarum*, we find him acting here, 1314, '18, '25, '28), for having favoured his uncle, the Earl of Buchan, and the other Cummins, in the opposition which they made to the settlement of that Prince. During his absence, the king seeing the new Cathedral he had begun, made the church with the revenues of the bishoprick. 'He dyed A.D. 1328.'"

"*Patrick Forbes* of Corse, son to William Forbes of Corse. He dyed here on Easter Eve, A.D. 1635, aged seventy-one and was buried in the south isle here."

*Patrick Scougal*, son to John Scougal of that Ilk, in East Lothian, parson of Saulton, was consecrated on Easter-day, A.D. 1664. As to his person, "he was big-eyed, grey-haired, tall and stooping, and of a very fearful aspect." He died at his house in the Chanonry here, of an asthma, February the 16th, A.D. 1682, aged seventy-five.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF OLD ABERDEEN.



HIS University was founded in 1494 by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, and Chancellor of Scotland under James III. It appears that in the reign of Malcolm IV., there existed at Old Aberdeen a *Studium Generale in Collegis Canonicum Aberdonensium*, attached to the Episcopal chapter, and is said to have been founded in 1157 by Saint Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen. According to Boece, it still existed when King's College was founded, but it is probable that it ceased to answer the purpose designed for it, since King James IV., "in his letter to Pope Alexander VI., requesting him to found a University in Old Aberdeen, mentions, as the chief motive, the profound ignorance of the inhabitants of the north of Scotland, and the great deficiency of properly educated men to fill the clerical office in that part of his kingdom". The result of this application was a Bull, dated 10th February, 1494, instituting a University in Old Aberdeen, which was to include every lawful Faculty, namely,



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# KING'S COLLEGE.





those of Theology, Canon and Civil Law, Medicine, and the Liberal Arts.

King James IV., by a charter of Confirmation, dated 22nd May, 1497, ratified all the enactments of the Papal Bull, and empowered Bishop Elphinstone to found a College within the University. Accordingly, the Bishop, in 1505, published what is called the first foundation of the College, which was confirmed by a Bull of Pope Julius II., in 1506. By this deed he formed and endowed a College, to be called that of *Sancta Maria in Nativitate*. The members were 36 in number, but by a second foundation, proposed by Bishop Elphinstone during his life, but published after having been proved by Bishop Gavin Dunbar in 1531, seventeen years after the death of Elphinstone, the number was raised to 42.

During the Roman Catholic and Episcopal periods, the Bishop of Aberdeen was *ex officio* Chancellor, and Bishop Elphinstone was the first.

The first Principal of King's College was the celebrated Hector Boece, eminent both as a biographer and historian, who was brought from the University of Paris where he first taught philosophy, by his friend the founder, to commence the course of education in his College of Aberdeen.

Dr. William Guild, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, was the ninth Principal, in 1641, after Dr. William Leslie's deposition, under "A singular sort of visitation which took place in 1651. General Monk sent five Colonels to visit and reform the College, viz. :—Desborough, Fenwick, Moseley, Owen, and Smith. They removed from their offices Principal Guild and several



others of the Professors, not for want of learning or diligence, in both which respects they were highly approved, but for some want of exact conformity to the standard of theological opinion at that time adopted by the army!"

The University buildings stand on the east side of the High Street, and are made conspicuous by the fine square tower (in the front part of the square), surmounted by an imperial crown, which is again surmounted by a cross. It is said to have been built by Bishop Dunbar in the year 1530, the original tower or spire having been blown down or damaged by a storm. The old part of the College, to which this tower belongs, is ornamented with the arms of James IV., of several Bishops, and of some nobles. The tower and crown are faced with Morayshire freestone, so are also the newer parts of the College buildings.

The College Chapel is a very handsome building, being the quire of the old College Church—the nave of which has been converted into the library. The stalls for the members of the church in the choir are beautifully carved black oak, and surrounded by a screen of the same material, which, in point of beauty and delicacy of carving, far surpasses any similar remains in Scotland. The tomb of Bishop Elphinston is in the middle of the chapel, and, although once highly ornamented, is now covered with a slab of black marble, without any inscription.

The Library is very extensive and valuable, and since the union of King's and Marischal Colleges in 1860, it is called the University Library. It is under the manage-

ment of a librarian and a library committee, and is chiefly for the use of the members of the University and the students attending the Colleges, who have the use of the books on deposit of £1 for each volume, to be returned when the book is restored.

The College buildings have been put into a proper state of repair, several new class-rooms have been added chiefly on the south side of the square, and a house for the Professor of Theology on the north of the University buildings, since the union of the Colleges ; and all these additions have been built of Morayshire freestone.

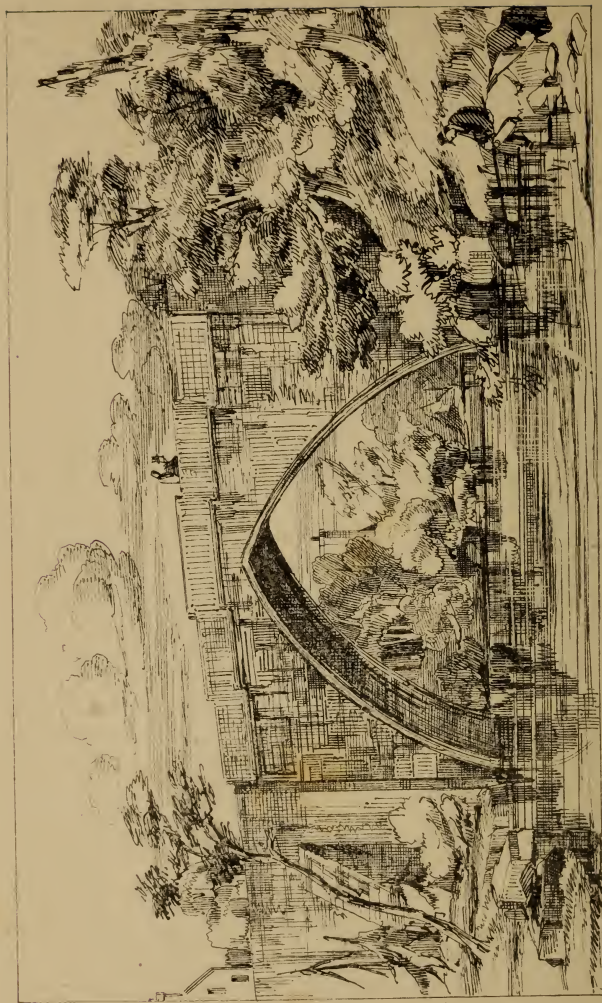
In the Senatus meeting-room there is a fine portrait by Jameson of Bishop Patrick Forbes ; and in the public hall adjoining are portraits of Bishops Dunbar, Elphinstone, Lesley (of Ross), and Scougal ; also of Hector Boece and of Henry Scougal, of George Buchanan, and curious likenesses of many of the Stuart race of kings.

Among the eminent men who received their education at King's College may be named George, Earl Marischal, the founder of Marischal College, and Alexander Johnston, the celebrated Latin poet ; James Cheyne, LL.D., who became Professor in Paris and Douay about 1570 ; John Erskine of Dun, who assisted in preventing the Reformation in Scotland ; Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate, 1674 ; Mr. George Gordon of Haddo, Regent of the College, afterwards President of the Court of Session, 1681, Chancellor, 1682, and the first Earl of Aberdeen ; Dr. Thomas Bower, a distinguished mathematician ; the celebrated Dr. Thomas Reid, first Professor of Philosophy here and afterwards

in Glasgow ; Lord Montboddo ; Robert Hall ; Charles Burney, a celebrated Greek scholar ; the late Dr. James Gregory of Edinburgh, author of *Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ* ; and the late Sir James Mackintosh, M.P.







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BRIG O' BALGOWNIE.



## CHAPTER XXVI.

### BRIDGE OF DON.



THE "Auld Brig o' Balgownie" is said to have been built by Bishop Cheyne, about the year 1320, out of the rents of his bishopric which had accumulated during his exile in England, to which he was obliged to retire for having espoused the cause of his uncle, John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, who was killed by King Robert Bruce, at Dumfries, in 1305.

King Robert, it is said, afterwards became reconciled to the bishop, and allowed him to return, when, in proof of his gratitude, and with the concurrence of his sovereign, he built this bridge. It consists of one Gothic arch of 67 feet span, and is  $34\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, from the dark deep pool below to the apex of the arch.

Hector Boece, states that, when Bishop Henry Cheyne was restored to his See, King Robert Bruce ordered the accumulated revenues to be spent on the restoration of the Cathedral. In the Deed of Mortification made in 1605, by Sir Alexander Hay, to the Magistrates of Aberdeen, it is stated that the Brig of Don was built



by King Robert Bruce, "at his orders and expense". The parson of Rothiemay, in his description of Old Aberdeen, 1661, says, "The most commone and most probable reporte is, that the renowned Prince Robert Bruise, King of Scotland," built this bridge, "which is lyke to be true," out of the sequestrated revenues of Bishop Cheyne's See. Kennedy also says, that it was built by King Robert Bruce, which so far corroborates the view taken by Sir Alexander Hay.

The earliest notice of this bridge in the Town Council's Register, Vol. V., is at a meeting of Council, September, 1443, when it was resolved to give the admission dues of a Burgess of Guild to the procurator of the bridge, for the purpose of repairing it. Next we find in 1560 and 1562, at the Reformation, that the ornaments of the "parroche kirk" were old, and part of the funds "applyit" upon the restoration of the "pier or keyheid of the said burght," and in repairing the "Brig O' Done". In 1587, the inhabitants resolved to tax themselves to the extent of *four hundred merks*, for the repair of the bridge; and 18 years later, David Menzies, Provost, explained "quhow that the Brig of Done is decaying and becum ruynous," and must "faill in schort space, gif tymouslie it be nocht bettit and reparit". The Provost also pointed out the loss and inconvenience it would be to the City, "in cace the said brig fall, the same being the most special brig and passage to this town," out of Buchan and "vther pairtis there-aboutis". The Council also had "causit certain craftsmen and vthers visit and sicht the same," who reported that it would require, "five thousand merks," to repair the bridge. Voluntary

contributions were asked from every parish within the diocese, and the ministers promised to obtain such. The Provost also proposed to the "towne convenit" to stent themselves to the sum of £500; but neither the amount of this *stent*, nor the voluntary contributions appear to have been realised, as we find in the Council's Register, 28th June, 1605, "the haill town, Burgess of gild, craftismen, and inhabitants of this burght" resolved "disburding thame of the taxatioune of £500," appropriated the sum of 800 *merks* (which was *contributed* by the inhabitants, "to the help and support of the towne of Geneva"), and "bestowit, warit, and employit vpon the help and support of the repairing of the Brig of Done," and, "to vther godlie vses," seeing, "prais it be God, the said toune of Geneva has nocht a present necessitie thereof".

In 1605, the Magistrates and Councillors of the City, became administrators of a fund which was left by Sir Alexander Hay, for keeping in repair the Bridge of Don. By this Deed of Mortification, there was left certain portions of land, the yearly value of which at the time amounted to £27 8s. 8d., scots money, or £2 8s. 5½d. sterling, and in 1872, the accumulated funds of the mortification amounted to the sum of £23,153 7s. 8d.

On the side of one of the buttresses on the south wing-wall of the bridge, there is cut on a neat freestone tablet—

"A.<sup>S</sup>H., Anno 1605, Dominus—Alex. Hay, Clericus  
Registri Ex innato in rempublicam amore £27 8s 8d.

Scotticus exquibusdam ad Abredoniam agellis quotannis memorandis huic fabricæ sustentandæ dedicavit."

In the year 1830, the administrators of the fund had built the new Bridge of Don; and at various times previously had contributed sums of money to assist in building bridges in various parts of the country south and north of Aberdeen. Such as the bridges over the waters of the Cowie and the Carron at Stonehaven; the bridges at Maryculter, and of Mondynes and Benholm in Kincardineshire; the bridges over the North Esk and the South Esk at Dun; and the bridge of Inchtute, between Dundee and Perth. The bridge over the Spey at Fochabers, and the bridge over the Findhorn at Forres; and, more recently, in building the bridge across the Ythan at Newburgh.

The carriage-way of this old bridge is narrow—only  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the approaches to it at both ends (but more especially the south) are awkward, the south approach being very steep, and it was not till after the funds of the bridge had accumulated to some extent that anything was done to improve the north access. Between the year 1740 and 1750, the north access to the bridge was partially improved, and buttress walls were built on the east side to strengthen the south approach wing wall; and within the past ten or twelve years considerable sums of money have been spent in tinkering up this wall, and only disfiguring the finest and most picturesque view of the fabric instead of improving the access.

In concluding this notice of the venerable Brig o' Balgownie, now upwards of 560 years old, we append the old prediction, attributed to Thomas of Ercildoune,

which has long been credited by more than mere children—

“Brig o’ Balgownie, black’s your wa’,  
Wi’ a wife’s ae son, and a mare’s ae foal,  
Down ye shall fa’.”

In Byron’s *Don Juan*, the following reference is made to the bridge :—

“As Auld Langsyne brings Scotland, one and all,  
Scotch plaids, Scotch snoods, the blue hills, the clear streams,  
The Dee, the Don, Balgownie’s Brig’s black wall,  
All my boyish feelings, all my gentler dreams.”

To which the poet appended the following note :—  
“The Brig of Don near the Auld-town of Aberdeen, with its one arch and its black deep salmon stream below, is in my memory as yesterday. I still remember, though perhaps I may misquote, the awful proverb which made me pause to cross it, and yet lean over it with a childish delight, being an only son, at least by the mother’s side. The saying, as recollected by me, was this, but I have never heard or seen it since I was nine years of age :—

“Brig o’ Balgownie, black’s your wa’,” &c.

On the west side of the hamlet, at the south end of the Old Bridge, there is an old mansion with a freestone tablet built into the wall of the small building attached, on which there appears the letters C.C. ; B.H., and date 1655 ; but we have no history of the building.

*New Bridge of Don.*—On account of the greatly increased and increasing traffic between Aberdeen and the north-eastern parts of the county, and in order to remedy

the inconvenient access afforded by the old bridge, the administrators of the fund resolved on building a new bridge, and fixed on a site for it about half way between the old bridge and the mouth of the river. This bridge consists of five semi-circular arches, each about 86 feet span. The roadway is  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide within parapets, with 3 feet broad foot-ways on each side, and the roadway is about 42 feet above sea level. It is all built of granite, regular coursed and scabble-faced masonry, every second course tailing in with the top of the arch stones. The parapet walls are four feet high above the sideways, and are fairly pick dressed with rounded coping, and six feet half-octagonal recesses above each pier, and whole octagonal pier turrets at the extremity of each wing wall. The plans of the bridge were revised by Telford. The contract price was £12,780, but from various causes the bridge cost £17,100.

*Wellington Suspension Bridge.*—This bridge spans the Dee at the Craiglug. It was built under an Act of Parliament obtained in 1831, along with about six miles of turnpike road, chiefly in Kincardineshire, which was intended to open up a shorter route to the city from the south, than that afforded by the Bridge of Dee. However, from the heavy pontage on the bridge, besides a toll upon the road, neither was ever much used by the public.

The suspension piers of this bridge are built upon a low ledge of rock on each side of the river, and are 220 feet apart between the points of suspension. The roadway is 22 feet wide within the suspending rods, but the



carriage-way is only 16 feet. It is suspended by four massive link chains, two on each side, with inch square suspending rods placed about five feet apart. The bridge was built by Sir Samuel Brown, the constructor of the Newhaven chain pier at Leith, and at present seems to be in a very bad state of repair.

*Victoria Bridge.*—This bridge is built across the new channel for the Dee, nearly in line with Market Street and the Upper Cross Quay of the Victoria Dock. It was opened for traffic in 1881. It consists of five semi-circular arches, four of 60 and one of 65 feet span, and cost, it is said, £25,000.

As a forerunner to the building of this bridge, we have to record a sad calamity which happened on Wednesday the 5th day of April, 1876, when *thirty-two* out of a total freight of *seventy-six* persons, perished by the upsetting of the Torry Ferry-boat in the river, and in sight of hundreds of their fellows, who were unable to render them any assistance. The magnitude of the disaster (excepting only the loss of the Oscar), is unparalleled in local history.

A Board of Trade inquiry into the circumstances attending the disaster took place, and the result appeared to be that the catastrophe seems to have hastened on the building of this long projected bridge across the Dee, as a "fitting memorial to those whose sad fate it was to be drowned in the river on the Black Fast-day of 1876".





## CHAPTER XXVII.

### EMINENT MEN.



B AILLIE Skene stated, in 1685, that “this *City* hath not been a barren mother or nurse in our *Israell* in bringing forth and breeding up many eminent men and brave *Spirits*, whereof there might be set down a large catalogue, not only in byepast years, but even of men eminent for abilities in their several professions in this same age”.

But to make a selection and briefly enumerate the works of these men of eminence is not only difficult from our ignorance of those labours that were either most meritorious or useful, and the task would have been much lessened by admitting into those pages those only who had been born in Aberdeen, but the very title suggests the necessity of admitting into our pages the names of those who have flourished in it, and the mode of arrangement we have selected is that of the chronological order.

JOHN BARBOUR, from whose work we have already given some extracts, was born in Aberdeen about the

year 1320 ; he was arch-deacon of the city and parson of Rayne in 1357 ; and in 1375 he composed his famous poem *The Bruce*, and died in 1396. The first edition was printed in 1616 ; and, before 1790, the work had gone through 20 impressions. Barbour was contemporary with Chaucer, and, if we except *Sir Tristrem*, his poem of *The Bruce* is the first of any length that our history affords, and is honourable to the author's country.

Dr. DUNCAN LIDDEL was born in Aberdeen in 1561, and received the first part of his education at the public schools and University there, and afterwards spent three years in Frankfort in the pursuit of philosophy, mathematics, and physic in foreign Universities. He settled in Scotland in 1607. In 1613, he executed at Aberdeen a deed of settlement, making a bequest to Marischal College for the endowment of a professorship of mathematics, together with his books and mathematical instruments. He died soon after, in the 52nd year of his age ; and was buried in the West Church, in which the magistrates placed a tablet of brass, representing the deceased in his professorial robes, surrounded by books and instruments, and suitable inscription. This brass was executed at Antwerp in 1622, and cost £933 6s. 8d. Scots money. They also erected an obelisk on the lands of Pitmedden, in Dyce, bequeathed by him to the College. Several of his works have been reviewed by Professor Stuart, and Caselius bears testimony to his modest bearing and agreeable disposition, while the donations to his *Alma Mater* sufficiently prove his gratitude for early favours, and attachment to his native city.

GILBERT JACK or JACKÆUS, an eminent metaphysician and medical writer, was born in Aberdeen in 1578, received part of his education in Marischal College, and continued his studies on the Continent. He was appointed to the Philosophic Chair in the University of Leyden in 1604—a period when there was scarcely a College in Europe that did not number among its Professors some enterprising and learned Scotsman. In 1612, appeared his *Institutiones Physicæ*, in which his discussions on *time* and *motion* anticipated the discussion of some of his philosophical countrymen. After having declined a chair at Oxford, this ardent scholar died in 1628.

WILLIAM GUILD, D.D., was the son of an armourer in Aberdeen, and from his position, works, and benefactions deserves a place amongst our eminent men. He was born in 1586, and educated at Marischal College. In his twenty-second year he published *The New Sacrifice of Christian Incense*, and in 1608 he was called to the pastoral charge of the parish of King Edward. Having become known to Bishop Andrews, he dedicated to that prelate his *Moses Unveiled* in 1618, and to Dr. Young, Dean of Winchester, through whom he was appointed one of the king's chaplains, he dedicated the *The Harmony of all the Prophets*. In 1625, he published *Ignis Fatuus*, or the *Elf-fire of Purgatory*, and a *Compendium of the Controversies of Religion*, dedicated to the Countess of Enyie, printed by Raban. In 1631, he was appointed one of the ministers of Aberdeen. In 1633, he mortified to the Incorporated Trades the monastery of the Friars

of the Holy Trinity, to be an Hospital for poor old Tradesmen, "not reduced to poverty through drunkenness". When the arbitrary measures of King Charles produced the Covenant, William Guild was one of the "Aberdeen Doctors" who withstood the Commissioners sent to Aberdeen, but he subscribed it with "conditions". He was a member of the Assembly at Glasgow that abolished the hierarchy; and in 1640, he was elected Principal of King's College, when his successor in his ministerial charge was the famous Andrew Cant. In 1651, he was deposed by the Military Commissioners appointed to visit King's College; but he retained the office for two years, and having taken up his residence in Aberdeen, he continued his deeds of beneficence and literary labours. He died in 1657, in the 71st year of his age, and was buried in St. Nicholas churchyard, where a monument erected by his widow commemorates his worth and works.

GEORGE JAMESON, who is known as "the Vandyke of Scotland," was born in Aberdeen, about 1587, and educated in the schools and College of his native city, and studied painting under Rubens at Antwerp. Having returned to Scotland in 1620, he prosecuted his art successfully in Aberdeen, living in intimacy with the eminent men of the period. Many of his portraits adorn the walls of our University, and in his day he had no superior in Scotland. He built the enclosure over the Well of Spa, and laid out a garden at the Garden-nook, in which he erected a summer-house, which Arthur Johnstone celebrates as having been painted by a

master's hand. He died in Edinburgh in 1644, and was buried in the Greyfriar's churchyard.

ALEXANDER ROSS was born in Aberdeen in 1590. He was master of the Grammar School of Southampton, and chaplain to Charles I. His works are chiefly of a controversial nature and are very numerous, for there is scarcely a subject within the range of literature on which he has not written. Among his poetical works we may mention his *Three Decades of Divine Meditations*, which is exceedingly rare. His most celebrated work, however, in this class is his *Virgilii Evangelisantis Christiados, Libra xiii.*, which went through several editions between 1634 and 1659. He was alluded to by Hudibras, and his *Mystagogus Poeticus* went through six editions. He left £200 to the Town Council of Aberdeen to found two bursaries in Marischal College, besides several other legacies. He died in 1654.

JOHN SPALDING, to whom all subsequent writers on the history of Aberdeen have been so much indebted, was Commissary Clerk of Aberdeen in the reign of Charles I. His *History of the Troubles and Memorable Transactions* in England and Scotland, written in the form of a diary, between 1624 and 1645, was first published in 1792, and in 1830 a new edition was printed in Aberdeen ; but the edition published by the Bannatyne Club, under the editorship of Mr. Skene of Rubislaw, is considered the most correct. Spalding describes with much quaintness the manners of the people in the scenes that passed before him, and preserves many valuable



public documents. As a Royalist and Episcopalian, he freely expresses his contempt for the Covenanters, sees in natural phenomena tokens of evil to the land, and sincerely laments the calamities inflicted by both parties on "noble Aberdeen".

The name of Spalding was adopted by a club, instituted in 1839, that has published many valuable records connected with Aberdeenshire and the neighbouring counties.

DAVID WEDDERBURN was born in Aberdeen, and was one of a numerous body of scholars who shed light on the city in the early part of the 17th century. He, along with Thomas Reid, Latin Secretary to the King, was appointed one of the masters of the Grammar School in 1602; and Wedderburn continued at the head of that seminary till old age obliged him to retire in 1640. He occasionally taught in both Universities, and besides composing a Latin Grammar, and editing *Persius*, he wrote numerous poems in the language he professed, several of which found a place in *Delitiæ Poetarum Scotorum*, and in *Poetarum Scotorum Sacræ Musæ*, besides an *Epytumbion* among the *Funerals* of Bishop Forbes. At the desire of the Magistrates he composed his *Syneuphranterion*, in 1617, on the return of the King to Scotland, for which he received a gratuity of 50 merks. His *Propempticon Charitum Aberdoniesum* has been given in Kennedy's Annals.

ALEXANDER JAFFRAY was born in Aberdeen in 1614. He was educated at the Grammar School under Wedder-



burn, and entered at Marischal College in 1631. He subscribed the Covenant in 1638, and, in 1649, was appointed one of the Commissioners to negotiate the restoration of Charles II., and was despatched on the same business in the year following. He fought and was wounded at Dunbar; and, after passing from Presbyterianism through Independency, he settled down in Quakerism, and died at his house at Kingswells in 1673. His diary and memoirs, which were discovered in the old house of Ury, were published in 1833 by John Barclay, and the third edition thereof at Aberdeen in 1856.

JAMES GREGORY was the son of the Rev. John Gregory of Drumoak, who married Janet, eldest daughter of David Anderson of Finzeach, already mentioned as "Davie-do-a-thing". He was born in 1638, studied at Marischal College, and, in the 24th year of his age, he published *Optica Promota*, in which he announced the invention of the reflecting telescope. He was appointed to the Professorship of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh; but, as he was showing some of his pupils the satellites of Jupiter through a telescope, he was struck with total blindness, and he died a few days afterwards in the 37th year of his age.

DAVID GREGORY, nephew to James, born in Aberdeen in 1661, was promoted to the Mathematical Chair in the University of Edinburgh; and in 1691 he obtained the Savilian Professorship of Astronomy at

Oxford. He was the author of several mathematical treatises ; but his *Astronomiæ Physicæ et Geometriæ* is accounted his principal work. He died while engaged with Halley in the publication of the *Conics* of Appollonius in 1710.

JAMES GREGORY, son of the inventor of the reflecting telescope, by the daughter of Jameson the painter, was born in 1674, and appointed Professor of Physic in King's College in 1725, and died in 1731. He was succeeded by his son, who, on his death in 1755, was succeeded by his more eminent younger brother :—

JOHN GREGORY, who was born in 1724, and in 1766 was appointed Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, and First Physician to His Majesty for Scotland. He was the author of *A Comparative View of the State and Faculties of Man with those of the Animal World*, 1765 ; and a *Father's Legacy to his Daughters*, published after his death, which took place in 1773.

JAMES GREGORY, son of the preceding, was born in Aberdeen, 1753, was his father's successor in the University, and author of *Conspectus Theoreticæ Medicinæ*. He died in 1821.

GILBERT BURNETT, who, although born in Edinburgh, 1643, studied at Marischal College, and has given an account of an encounter which he witnessed between the ministers of Aberdeen and the soldiers of Cromwell, at which swords were drawn, but no blood was spilt.

He rendered some important services at the time of the great Revolution, and published the Histories of the Reformation and of his own times. He died Bishop of Salisbury in 1715.

LORD MONBODDO, another Burnett, who was also educated at Marischal College, and is known as the author of *The Origin and Progress of Language*, and of *Ancient Metaphysics*. Born in 1714, he died in 1799.

ALEXANDER SKENE of Newtyle, Master of Arts, and one of the Baillies of the City of Aberdeen, deserves a place among our eminent men. His little volume, from which we have so frequently quoted, the first part of which was dedicated to the Lord Provost and Baillies of Edinburgh, is entitled *Memorialls For the GOVERNMENT of the ROYAL BURGHS in SCOTLAND*; and the second, which is dedicated to the Lord Provost and Baillies of Aberdeen, and bears on the reverse of the title page the town's crest of arms—"A Succinct SURVEY of the famous CITY of ABERDEEN, With its *Situation, Description, Antiquity, Fidelity, and Loyalty* to their SOVERAIGNES, &c., *By a Zealous Lover of BON-ACCORD* ΦΙΛΟΝΟΛΙΤΕΙΟΥΣ. Aberdeen, Printed by Iohn Forbes 1685." Baillie Skene, in 1670, rebuilt the fountain around the Well of Spa, and reprinted the celebration of its virtues by Dr. Barclay in his "*Callirhoe*, commonly called the Well of Spa, or the Nymph of Aberdeen Resuscitat".

JAMES GIBB, architect, son of Peter Gibb of Footdee-

mire, was born about 1674, and graduated at Marischal College. He studied architecture in Italy. He returned to England in 1710, and designed several public buildings, such as St. Martin's Church-in-the-Fields, King's College, Cambridge, the Radcliffe Library at Oxford; and, as a testimony of regard for his native city, he sent the Magistrates of Aberdeen the plan of the West Church. He died in 1764, bequeathing his property, amounting to £15,000, to public charities and particular friends.

The family of FORDYCE have furnished several eminent men, who have done credit to Aberdeen. JOHN FORDYCE was Provost of the City at various times between 1718 and 1728. His son JOHN practised medicine in London, where he died in 1796, and his younger brother, SIR WILLIAM FORDYCE, born 1724, died 1792, attained the highest eminence in his profession, and, among other works, published a *Treatise on Fevers and Ulcerated Sore Throat*.

DR GEORGE FORDYCE, nephew of the last, born 1736, died 1802, was a practitioner of no less celebrity. He was a member of Dr. Johnson's famous club, and, among many other publications, was the author of *Dissertations on Fever*.

THOMAS BLACKWELL, son of Principal Blackwell, translated from Paisley to Aberdeen in 1700, was born in Aberdeen in 1701, and graduated at Marischal College in 1718, and in 1723, he was appointed Professor of Greek

in the same University. In 1737 he published "An Inquiry into the Life and Writings of Homer". In 1748 he published letters on *Mythology*, and was made principal of his college. At the commencement of the session, 1752, he introduced a new method of teaching the sciences, and, in the following year, he published the first volume of his *Memoirs of the Court of Augustus*. He died in 1757, and his widow both founded a chemical professorship in Marischal College, and a premium of £10 to be annually given for the best essay on such a subject as her trustees may select.

THOMAS REID, was born in the manse of Banchory-Ternan, studied at Marischal College, and afterwards travelled through the greater part of Europe. His Latin poems are preserved in the *Delitiæ Poetarum Scotorum*. He was appointed Latin Secretary to James I. of England, and bequeathed his library, rich in the best editions of the classics, to Marischal College, together with a salary to a librarian. His brother, Alexander, who published a *Manual of Anatomy*, attained great eminence as a medical practitioner in London; was appointed physician to Charles I., and was a benefactor of Marischal College.

THOMAS REID, D.D., was born in the manse of Strachan, in 1710. He was educated at Marischal College, where he was appointed librarian, on the foundation of his ancestor. In 1737, he was appointed to the parochial charge of New Machar. In 1752, he was elected Professor of Moral Philosophy in King's



College, and, in 1764, he published his celebrated *Inquiry into the Human Mind*. He afterwards accepted the Chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, rendered vacant by the death of Dr. Adam Smith. In 1785, he published his *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*; and in 1788, those on the *Active Powers*. He died towards the close of 1796, and his collected works were published in 1803.

GEORGE CAMPBELL, D.D., was born in Aberdeen in 1719, and, in 1748, was presented to the church of Banchory-Ternan. He was translated to Aberdeen in 1756, and three years afterwards, he was elected Principal of Marischal College. In 1763, he published his celebrated *Dissertation on Miracles*; his *Philosophy of Rhetoric* appeared in 1776, and his great work the *Translation of the Gospels*, was published in 1793. Having resigned his offices of Principal, Professor of Divinity, and one of the City ministers, the king granted him a pension of £300 a year. He died in 1796, and most of his works, with his life prefixed, were published in 1800.

ALEXANDER GERARD, D.D., was born in the manse of Chapel of Garioch, in 1728, and graduated in Marischal College in 1744. After occupying the Chair of Natural Philosophy in that College for some years, he was ordained minister of Greyfriars Church, Aberdeen, in 1759; and, in the following year, he was chosen Professor of Divinity. Having resigned both his church and professorship in 1771, he was preferred to the



Theological Chair in King's College, and died in 1795. He published his prize *Essay on Taste* in 1759; his *Dissertations on the Genius and Evidences of Christianity* in 1766; and, in 1774, his *Essay on Genius*. His *Pastoral Care* was published posthumously in 1799, and a small volume on the *Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion* by the father and son, was published in 1828.

GILBERT GERRARD, D.D., son of the preceding, was born in Aberdeen in 1760, and, having been educated for the church, was appointed minister of the Scotch Church at Amsterdam. In 1791, he returned to Scotland, and obtained the Professorship of Greek in King's College; in 1795, he succeeded his father as Professor of Divinity; and in 1811, he was appointed to the second charge of the church of Old Machar. He published *Institutes of Biblical Criticism*, a work of very great erudition, in 1808, and died suddenly in 1815.

JAMES BEATTIE was born in Laurencekirk in 1735, and graduated at Marischal College in 1753. He was, in that year, appointed schoolmaster at Fordoun, and in 1758, he was elected one of the masters of the Grammar School of Aberdeen. Two years afterwards he published a volume of *Original Poems and Translations*, and in the same year he was appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy in Marischal College. In 1770, he published his *Essay on Truth*, which brought him prominently into notice. The University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of LL.D., and he obtained a

pension of £200 a year. The second book of *The Minstrel*, by which he is best known, was published in 1774, and in 1793, he published the second volume of his *Moral Science*. Having lost his eldest son in 1790, James H. Beattie, who had been appointed his successor, and five years afterwards, his younger son Montague, Dr. Beattie retired from society, and after several paralytic strokes, died in 1803. His body was deposited near his sons in St. Nicholas Churchyard, and his grave is indicated by a monument, for which Dr. James Gregory supplied the inscription.

ROBERT HAMILTON, LL.D., was born in Edinburgh in 1743, and studied in the University of his native city. In 1769, he was appointed Rector of the Academy at Perth, and in 1779, he was presented to the Chair of Natural Philosophy in Marischal College, which he exchanged for that of Mathematics. After publishing several works on Mathematics and Arithmetic, his principal work on the *National Debt of Great Britain*, was published in 1813, and the principles of this work have been generally admitted and acted upon. Dr. Hamilton died in 1829, and a collection of essays, under the title of *The Progress of Society*, was published in 1830.

COLIN MILNE, LL.D., a distinguished writer on botany, was born in Aberdeen in 1744, and published in 1770, *A Botanical Dictionary*, and subsequently, *Institutes of Botany*, and *Indigenous Botany*. He also published a volume of sermons, and died in 1815.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE BROWN, D.D., was born in Utrecht, in 1755. His father having been appointed Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of St. Andrew's, the son prosecuted his studies there, and in 1778, was admitted minister of the English Church at Utrecht. In 1783, he gained the second honour for an essay on the *Origin of Evil*, and several medals for other essays in subsequent years. In 1788, he was appointed to a Chair in the University, and ultimately was nominated Rector. The war which followed the French Revolution compelled him in 1795, to quit Holland, when he succeeded Dr. Campbell as Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, and was soon after made Principal of that University; he was also one of the ministers of the West Church. His poetical works include *Sensibility* and *Philemon*; and his greatest effort was in obtaining the Burnett prize of £1250, for an *Essay on the Existence of a Supreme Being* possessed of Infinite Power, Wisdom, and Goodness, which was published in 1816. His *Comparative View of Christianity* was published in 1826. Two of his sons, Rev. Dr. R. J. Brown, Professor of Greek in Marischal College, and Dr. G. G. Brown, Bombay Medical Service, have recently passed away from their benevolent associations. Dr. W. L. Brown, died in 1830. His political sentiments were liberal, his acquaintance with several modern languages was familiar, and his reading in Theology had been very extensive.

JAMES PERRY, the proprietor and editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, was born in Aberdeen in 1756, and

died at Brighton in 1821. In 1782, he projected and edited the *European Magazine*, and was the first to introduce the method of reporting Parliamentary debates by a succession of shorthand writers.

JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D., born in Aberdeen in 1781, was a son of one of the ministers of the city, and completed his medical curriculum at Edinburgh in 1803, where he established himself as a general practitioner. In 1835, he was elected Lord Rector of Marischal College ; but while his professional reputation was increasing his career was suddenly arrested by the bursting of a blood vessel in 1844. Dr. Abercrombie was no less distinguished as a pious man than an elegant writer. In 1830, he published *Inquiries concerning the Intellectual Powers* ; and three years afterwards, *The Philosophy of the Moral Feelings*—works which show the harmony between the truths of science, and the revelations of Christianity.

Passing into the nineteenth, we are obliged to leave unnoticed :—natives of Aberdeen.

ARCHIBALD SIMPSON, Architect.

ALEXANDER DYCE, Painter.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Antiquarian, and Author of the *Book of Bon-Accord*.

JOHN PHILIP, Painter.

WILLIAM and ALEXANDER BRODIE, both Sculptors.

Other eminent men who have shed a lustre on their native city, do not fall to be noticed by us in the present publication.

*Printing.* In connection with our distinguished authors, we shall now give a brief notice of the art of printing, and when it was introduced to Aberdeen. We may, however, remark that the precise date of the invention of printing, and the name of the inventor have been the subject of grave dispute. The art was first introduced into England by William Caxton, about the year 1474, and into Scotland about 1540. In 1621, a patent was obtained from King James, by the Bishop and Provost of Aberdeen, for establishing a printing press in the city, and Edward Raban was appointed printer to the Town and University. He was succeeded in 1649, by James Brown, son of the minister of Invernochty in Strathdon; and in 1662, John Forbes was appointed his successor. Forbes was among the first Scottish printers who possessed music types, and in 1666, he printed the *Aberdene Collection*, set to music, with an Introduction by Thomas Davison, Teacher in the Music School. He was also among the earliest publishers in Scotland, of an Almanack, which he began in 1677. On his death, in 1705, his widow carried on the business, and their daughter, who married James Nicol, printer, and they succeeded her mother. Nicol carried on the business for several years, but resigned it in favour of James Chalmers, son of the Professor of



Divinity in Marischal College. James Chalmers was the first publisher of a Weekly Newspaper north of Edinburgh, the *Edinburgh Courant* being the first ; the *Aberdeen Journal* the second ; and the *Glasgow Herald* (1782) the third oldest existing newspaper in Scotland. The origin of the *Aberdeen Journal* was an account of the battle of Culloden, fought in April, 1746, but the *Aberdeen Journal* dates from January, 1748, and continued to be published by the descendants of the originators, until within about ten years that it has been issued as a daily paper by a joint-stock company.

About 1752, Francis Douglas and William Murray established a printing office, and commenced the publication of a weekly newspaper, called the *Aberdeen Intelligencer* ; but in those days the inhabitants were not so much engrossed by the affairs of the world as to require two newspapers, and so, in a few years, the *Intelligencer* ceased. In 1806, John Booth, merchant, started the *Aberdeen Chronicle*, which politically merged into the *Aberdeen Herald* in 1832. The *Observer*, the *Constitutional*, and the *Banner* (instituted for the promulgation of Free Church principles) flourished for a time, and passed away. The *Free Press*, first issued in 1853 as a weekly, has, since 1872, been published daily. The *Northern Advertiser* is almost entirely confined to advertisements, while the *People's Journal*, the *People's Friend* and the *Weekly News* afford both local and general intelligence.

*Society of Advocates.*—The Procurators before the Sheriff and Commissary Courts have from time imme-



morial been styled "Advocates in Aberdeen". In 1777, they received a Crown Charter of Incorporation, and another in 1799, and another in 1862, conferring enlarged powers of management upon the Society.

In the year 1685, the Society instituted a fund for aiding indigent members, and widows and orphans of deceased members; and the Society is possessed of a valuable library in the departments of law and general literature, which is kept up by contributions from entrant members, apprentices, and annual payments by the former.

*Medical Society.*—This Society was instituted in 1789 by a few gentlemen for mutual instruction in the various branches of science, and among the most prominent of its benefactors was the late Sir James M'Gregor, Bart., Director-General of the Army Medical Department, who, in order to protect their property, and to have a convenient place for holding their meetings, commenced a subscription in 1809, for the purpose of building a medical hall. The building, which stands on the west side of King Street, was completed in 1820, and in front has four handsome Ionic pillars about 27 feet in height, and it contains a handsome hall, library, reading room, museum, laboratory, and apartments for the keeper.

The library contains upwards of 5000 volumes, besides dissertations and tracts on medical subjects, and it is divided into two parts, the one called "the library of reference," the other "the library of circulation," and its means of support are the contributions of members and

private donations. The museum contains a fair collection in natural and pathological anatomy, and preparations in various departments of natural history.













